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Iraq announces pullback from border

U.S. sees move as 'good' sign, Ekeus report seen as positive for Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID on Monday it was pulling its troops back from the border with Kuwait as battle-ready U.S. forces flew into the emirate and U.S. ships arrived off the coast to counter a reported massive Iraqi troop buildup.

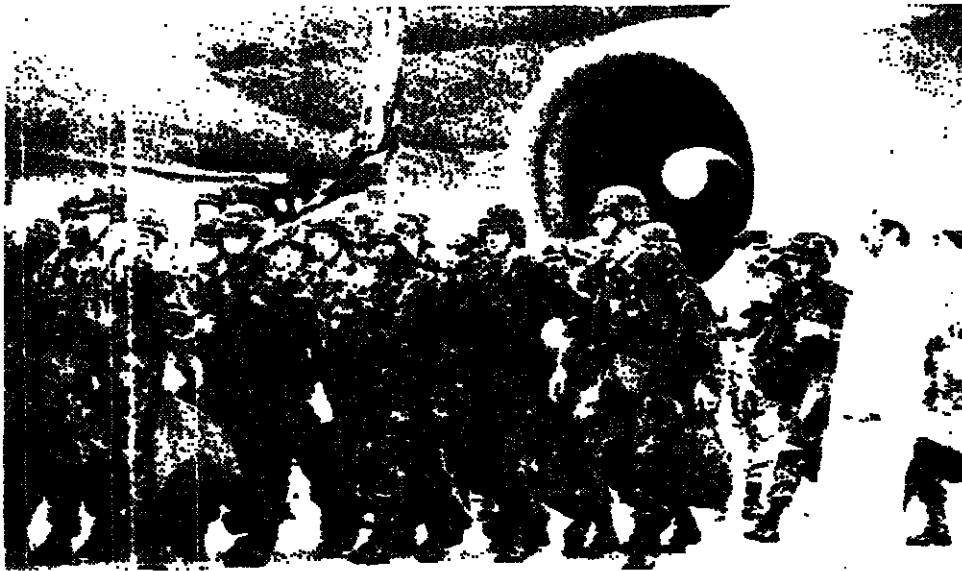
Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) some troops had been in the area for training, and added:

"In response to pleas by a number of friends... it has been decided to transfer units to other sites in the rear to complete their training."

The United States said up to 80,000 Iraqi troops were near the border with the emirate which Iraq invaded in 1990 and from which it was ousted by a U.S.-led alliance seven months later.

The Iraqi buildup was largely seen as brinkmanship to pressure the U.N. to ease at meeting this week a crippling trade embargo imposed on Baghdad over its invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Sahaf said the withdrawal decision came after Iraq talks with "certain international parties and regional friends on lifting the embargo."



A Kuwaiti official watches American soldiers landing in Kuwait (AFP photo)

He said these parties had been "worried about the presence of (elite) Republican Guards in Basra," a southern Iraqi city.

"Some of them thought that this presence could give the United States a pretext" to continue to push for the sanctions to be maintained, he added.

On Sunday, Mr. Sahaf said Iraq had held talks with permanent Security Council members Russia, France and

China on lifting crippling sanctions in exchange for a clear statement by Baghdad on Kuwait.

The ideas could "restore stability to the region," he added.

The Iraqi announcement coincided with a format announcement by a U.N. panel in charge of dismantling Iraq that Iraq had allowed it to put in place a provisional system for long-term control of Iraq's military capability.

"The commission believes that the basic elements for a thorough system are now in place. There are plans to introduce in the immediate future technical additions to the system to improve its efficiency and convenience," the panel's report said.

"In the light of the progress reported above, the commission's system of ongoing monitoring and verification is provisionally operational," the panel said.

The report is due to be put before the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday.

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus had been scheduled to present the report on Iraq's progress towards meeting resolutions on destroying its weapons of mass destruction to the U.N. Security Council on Monday.

But a dispute over the use of the word "provisional" delayed delivery, diplomats in New York said late Sunday.

The United States has been firmly against easing the sanctions, which it has enforced with several air attacks as punishment for violations or reluctance to allow cameras to be installed in plants suspected of being used to build weaponry which is illegal under the terms of the Gulf war peace accord.

Overall, the report paints a positive picture of Iraq's cooperation in allowing the dismantling and monitoring of its chemical and ballistic weapons of mass destruction and its overall military capability.

"If Iraq extends to the operation of ongoing monitoring and verification the same level of cooperation that it has to date in its establishment, there can be cause for

(Continued on page 7)

King discloses he advised Iraq against fresh mistake

KUWAIT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said in remarks published on Monday he had advised Iraq not to repeat "the mistakes of 1990."

Calling on Baghdad to pursue a negotiated settlement to the latest crisis with Kuwait and its allies, the King said: "Let it be known that we are against Arabs using force against their brother Arabs."

"We have advised Iraq not to repeat the mistakes of 1990. We will oppose and stand against the Arab who uses force against another Arab," the King was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Sayyash.

He added this approach would spare the Iraqi people danger and give them a chance to live a dignified life.

Jordan's sympathy with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1990-91 resulted in the freezing of relations with Kuwait and its Gulf Arab allies and in tense relations with the



Western World.

"We are with the side which will be the target of aggression. Enough losses and enough mistakes," the King was quoted as saying.

Editor-in-chief Ahmad Al Jarallah said the King had

told him he had conveyed his opinion to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz when he returned through Jordan from U.N. headquarters.

"We have conveyed this position to Tariq Aziz, who stopped in Amman on his way back from New York. We hope that this Jordanian position is clear to our brothers in the Gulf States," the King said.

"We support resolving conflicts through dialogue and negotiations and not by committing mistakes and resorting to the use of force," the King was quoted as saying.

"Should the logic of dialogue with the world be adopted, it will lead to avoiding the previous mistakes. The Iraqi people should be kept away from dangers."

"If the Iraqi people are to live a dignified and honourable life, the approach should be different. This target can never be achieved through mistakes and inaccurate calculations."

Israel-Jordan talks stumble over border

EILAT (Agencies) — Jordan and Israel opened four days of peace talks Monday but ran into trouble over the drawing up of international border in the Wadi Araba desert north of this Red Sea resort, officials said.

"The negotiations went ahead as expected but there are difficulties particularly over the question of the border in the Arava (Wadi Araba), Israeli delegation chief Elyakim Rubinstein said.

But he added: "It's only the start and we hope to make progress."

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Fayez Tarawneh, said in Amman there were differences between the two sides.

"A wide gap separates us on the main issues and we will do our best to overcome it in the course of the next two weeks," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Israeli officials said sub-committees convened on the border, security issues, water, economy and tourism.

Amman is demanding the return of 385.91 square kilometres of land occupied by Israel and a greater share of water resources.

The talks follow the July 25 declaration by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in ending 46 years of hostilities.

The two countries opened an Eilat-Aqaba crossing to third country nationals in August and a second crossing is due to open this month.

The discussions will be followed by another four-day session next week in Aqaba.

Dr. Tarawneh added he hoped a joint project to develop the Jordan Valley would be discussed at a Middle East economic summit due to be held at the end of

(Continued on page 7)

Council briefed on draft customs law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Economic Consultative Council on Monday discussed a draft law for customs and the economic impact of peace on Jordan.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the council also discussed the economic and political implications of a decision by some Arab states to end the boycott of firms dealing with Israel and measures that should be taken to protect the Jordanian economy in the light of the current developments in the region.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and the director of the customs department presented a briefing on the aims and objectives of the draft law. They said that it provides for changes that will affect the whole law and would cater to the requirements of the economy.

The new law would simplify procedures and remove bureaucratic complications for the public, they added.

Mr. Gammoh told the council members that the Finance Ministry presented the new customs law to the government six months ago and that the legislation bureau at the Prime Ministry had completed its first reading of its provisions and it was approved by the government's Legal Committee.

He said that the draft law would be submitted to the council in its final version in its next meeting.

The council also reviewed a working paper submitted by economist and council member Fahd Fanek covering the question of boycott of Israel stressing that Jordan should only end the boycott once it has reached a lasting peace with Israel guaranteeing the return of Jordan's land and water rights.

World urges restraint in Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

GOVERNMENTS around the world called on Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to show restraint as the first of 36,000 U.S. combat troops began to arrive in Kuwait on Monday.

There were also appeals to the states that formed the coalition in the Gulf war to avoid confrontation and to seek to reduce tension.

The Russian ITAR-TASS news agency quoted President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to the Middle East Viktor Pavlovskyuk as advising Baghdad to show "restraint, self-control, renunciation of military moves and cooperation with the United Nations."

He urged Iraq to comply with United Nations Resolution 633 requiring Baghdad to recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and frontiers and called on it to abstain from any move likely to worsen tension in the Gulf.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said it was

still possible to resolve the crisis by diplomatic and political means.

China called on Iraq to cooperate with the U.N. but also urged "the parties concerned" to "refrain from taking steps which may increase tension" in the Gulf.

The Palestinian self-rule authority said it was following with concern news of renewed tension in the Gulf. A spokesman in Gaza City said it hoped there would be no war or armed confrontation.

"We ask the United States, the Arab World and the European countries to bear this in mind," said spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that there was no comparison between the present crisis and that which led to the Gulf war.

"The Saddam Hussein of 1994 is not the same man as in 1990," he told Israel Radio.

In Paris the Iraqi representative was called to the foreign ministry to be told of

France's anxiety over Iraqi troop movements.

A statement from the ministry said France was monitoring closely the situation on the Iraq-Kuwaiti border and had decided to send a frigate to waters off the Kuwaiti coast. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe had earlier warned of a "rapid, firm" allied response to any Iraqi move against Kuwait.

The British government said that it was preparing for any eventuality in the Gulf but for the moment saw "no sign of any crisis" with Baghdad. A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain was taking no chances.

Referring to President Saddam's spokesman said: "We are taking measures that would ensure that if he were to do the irrational, then we are ready to react."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel expressed Germany's concern and said that if Iraq sought an easing of sanction its actions would be counter-productive.

In Turkey the government

reacted with dismay to developments.

According to the Turkish authorities the United Nations embargo against Iraq has cost their country \$20 billion in lost revenue from the transit of Iraqi oil by pipeline and border trade.

A government official said Monday that the new crisis had "dealt a blow to efforts to normalise relations and improve the situation in Iraq."

But the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said he did not believe Iraq planned a second invasion and warned the big powers not to seek to exploit the situation. He said that if they did not like the Iraqi government and wanted to throw it out, they should not make the Iraqi people suffer.

In London the price of North Sea Brent crude oil rose by about 35 cents a barrel but operators said they did not expect another war and predicted that the up-

(Continued on page 7)

Delegates give out little on Eilat talks

From Nermeen Murad in Eilat THE JETT bus carrying some 40 Jordanian journalists on Monday drove through the gates of the Wadi Araba crossing point from Aqaba into this until now mysterious Red Sea city without drawing any attention from its citizens who acted as if a Jordanian bus shuttled across their roads everyday.

Eilat also failed to match the expectations of the visiting Jordanian journalists, who, for years, have seen the lights of this city shimmer in the distance, beautiful but unapproachable. The city, filled with dust-coloured hotels and American-style highway shops, lost all its glitter for the journalists, who were delivered to the Neptune Hotel where the first week of negotiations are to be held.

For all intents and purposes everything appeared to be settled into the regular routine of the previous three years of negotiations. The hotel was dressed up in what has come to be a trademark of these talks which are always inaugurated with an artistic gesture of peace.

Across the entrance to the hotel stood a red and white sign praising peace between Israel and Jordan, but beyond that the negotiators

were the same, the issues appeared to be the same and the beach is no more inviting than that of Aqaba.

What was different was the obvious attempt by both the Jordanian and Israeli delegates to act as if nothing should be expected at this round of talks. Negotiators from both sides tried to direct the attention of the press to a side-show trilateral meeting of U.S., Israeli and Jordanian experts discussing joint parks, marine and otherwise, as part of the master plan for developing the Jordan Rift Valley.

Both sides obviously wanted to divert the press from raising questions on the core issues of negotiations to the less controversial plans for the "after-peace time," as one delegate put it.

At the plenary meeting that usually opens every round of talks, the mayor of Eilat, Gabi Kadosh, said that his Red Sea city was preparing projects of cooperation with its neighbour, Aqaba.

He said that Eilat experts had drafted a detailed programme for cooperation in different fields, some of which could be immediately implemented.

"Together we can develop and coordinate a network of

roads, border crossings, proper wastewater treatment, commerce and tourist relations, joint regional rescue services, a regional medical centre, university for studying tourism and marine biology," Mr. Kadosh told Jordanian delegates.

But sources within the two delegations confirmed to the Jordan Times that cooperation in the future put aside, outstanding issues are not only being discussed but being resolved and most importantly the "rights issues" of water and territory.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Fayez Tarawneh hinted at possible progress in these two issues when he told reporters that he was "extremely hopeful" that progress will be made on water, territories and security.

"We have all the seriousness and persistence and are extremely hopeful that this week and next week in Aqaba, we will hopefully make some progress (on water and boundaries)," he said before entering into the morning session of talks.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Elyakim Rubenstein, also indicated that progress could be expected when he told reporters that there was continuous prog-

ress in these talks with Jordan.

"We are making progress all the time," Mr. Rubenstein said without elaboration.

But this round comes after a prolonged break in bilateral negotiations on the delegation level, during which the leaderships of the two states held important meetings which sources believe "contributed to breaking the deadlock on the territories and water issues."

In fact, at least one source said that a "package" deal was in the works which would address the Jordanian right to its water share in the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and would spell out the steps for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordan territory which would also take into account the technical difficulties of demarcation of boundaries.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity could not spell out the details of the "package" which he said was still being worked out but which he said would show "good progress" on water and occupied territory.

But, if these reports were true, none of it was being publicised by the negotiators who remained tight-lipped about the details of the meetings of 14 committees,

Hamas claims Jerusalem attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility Monday for an attack in which two Palestinians armed with assault rifles and grenades ran down a narrow street crowded with cafes and restaurants, firing at random.

An off-duty Israeli woman soldier and a Palestinian were killed in the attack and 13 others wounded, including a U.S. diplomat who was hit by grenade fragments, police said.

Police and private citizens with handguns returned fire and the two Palestinian assailants wearing red bandannas and carrying AK-47 rifles fell dead in the stone-paved Yoel Solomon street shortly before midnight.

Angry Israeli gathered at the shooting site on Monday as shopkeepers and cafe owners swept up glass and children gathered around a tree trunk to dig out a bullet. Some cafes reopened and served breakfast.

Youths shouted slogans against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for his peacemak-

ing with the Palestinians.

"Rabin go home," shouted a group of about 20 teenagers.

Mr. Rabin, at a news conference with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, accused Islamic fundamentalists of trying to "undermine the peace" and said they wanted to "kill Israelis because they are Israelis."

Mr. Christopher, who was in the landmark King David Hotel a few blocks away when the attack occurred, said he had conveyed President Clinton's determination not to let such violence kill the peace.

"I think Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat should respond to that and condemn it strongly," Mr. Christopher told reporters after meeting Mr. Rabin.

"That is part of his responsibility because it is an interference with his efforts to achieve peace in the region," he said.

Although there was no immediate word from Mr. Ara-



A dead Palestinian lies at the scene of Sunday's attack (AFP photo)

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, Syria still apart on key issues

By Bary Schweid
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Three years after Mideast peace talks opened, Israel and Syria are distant on all the key issues that stand in the way of a peace treaty.

"We have a process that offers a way to begin to narrow the gaps on those issues," was the most one of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's top aides would say about the tortuous U.S.-directed search for peace that brought Mr. Christopher back for the fifth time since May.

"The fact is, at this point we don't have an agreement on any one of those key issues," the aide said.

The issues are as basic as they are elusive. Israel wants a "warm peace" from Syria — an exchange of ambassadors, economic and cultural ties, all the trappings of normal relations that translate into acceptance.

Syria was to recover the Golan Heights — the strategic enclave it lost in the 1967 war. The Golan Heights was "annexed" by Israel in 1981 and is home now to 13,000 Jewish settlers. Recovery of the Golan is a point of honour for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"Without such an undertaking, the Middle East peace process will achieve no progress," Syria's government-run Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial Sunday.

Both sides want security — a near-foolproof system to guard against surprise attack across their common border. These are the same issues that were at the table in

Madrid, Spain, when Israel and Syria launched peace talks in October 1991. Two other Arab participants, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, have since reached agreements that would lead to peace treaties with Israel.

Lebanon, which takes cues from Syria, has not come to terms, and Syria, while it has declared peace with Israel "a strategic option," insists that unless Israel returns all of the Golan Heights, there cannot be peace.

Israel is just as firm in insisting on peace with all the regular trimmings — embassies, trade, tourism and a secure border.

The kind of security arrangements that would satisfy the two sides is not clear. But if there is peace, Americans are likely to be sent to the Golan Heights along with soldiers from other nations to make sure it is kept.

Mr. Christopher, keeping an eye all the while on ominous Iraqi troop movements towards the border with Kuwait, has said he does not expect a breakthrough during his six days of travel.

He is already thinking of coming back in a few weeks as part of a trip that will take him to Casablanca, Morocco, at the end of the month for a conference Israel and several Arab countries — but not Syria — will attend on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

Looking for a rainbow, Mr. Christopher's assistants say are struck by changes in "atmospherics," such as Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa's willingness to be questioned by Israeli reporters during his visit to

Washington last week.

"It is emblematic of a change," said a senior U.S. official before Mr. Christopher flew here.

American Jewish leaders who meet with Mr. Sharaa in the House of Representatives Rayburn Building were less impressed. Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, said the Syrian foreign minister told them even an agreement would not produce the diplomatic and economic ties Israel wants — but would be a step in that direction.

Syria, meanwhile, is clearly frustrated by Israel's negotiating tactics, offering a phased withdrawal without saying how much of the Golan Heights would be surrendered. And proposing in the first phase a small pull-back in exchange for substantial gestures from Damascus.

Mr. Christopher's persistent pursuit of an agreement suggests he thinks one is attainable. A peace treaty would embelish the administration's foreign policy record just in time for the November elections.

But State Department officials, once hopeful of a treaty by the end of the year, now are saying the negotiations could drag into 1995. Although they find some reason to cheer.

"The two sides, I believe, have now become convinced that the other genuinely wants to try to reach an agreement," said an official long experienced in Middle East peacemaking. "I don't think you see the same kinds of questions or doubt that existed before."



JERUSALEM ATTACK: Israeli soldiers search for other assailants at the scene of an attack on Sunday in the pedestrian center of West Jerusalem. One Israeli and an Arab were killed and 14 wounded when the

assaults opened fire with assault rifles and threw grenades on a crowd in the Nahalat Shiva district, known for its restaurants and cafes. Two assailants were killed (AFP photo)

Israel 'committed to immigration'

TEL AVIV (AP) — In an attempt to quiet a public debate over immigration, the cabinet on Sunday reaffirmed Israel's existence as a home to all Jews.

"The cabinet sees itself committed to implementing the law of return, the essence of Zionism, its very spirit," the government said in a statement that won the backing of every member except Labour Minister Ora Namir, who abstained.

Mr. Namir, of the ruling Labour Party, ignited controversy last week by claiming that many immigrants from the former Soviet Union are old and sick, and an undesirable social burden to Israel. She recommended encouraging more young people to come.

The "law of return" allows anyone claiming one Jewish grandparent to immigrate. Its logic was called in question two months ago with reports that hundreds of thousands of Indians were claiming Jewish ancestry.

But the cabinet statement

made it clear that the government intended to continue "to execute the policy of open gates and encouraging immigration."

In part, it seemed to reflect growing concern that Ms. Namir's comments could be politically disastrous for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's governing Labour Party, that won its narrow electoral victory in 1992 through massive immigrant support.

The Soviet immigrant vote was primarily in protest of the former Likud government's absorption policies and surveys indicate that the newcomers do not necessarily support government peace policies.

"The government regrets the stormy controversy around the issue of immigration from the former Soviet Union. Unfounded statements were made that damaged the image of this valuable immigration," the announcement said.

Still, Ms. Namir's comments

gained support from members of Israel's Sephardic, or Middle Eastern Jewish community. Although Sephardim are about half the 4.5 million Jewish population, they form the bulk of the country's poor.

David Biton, a Sephardi activist, argued that immigrants were taking jobs away from veteran Israelis and, alluding to the widespread presence of Soviet women in Israeli brothels, labelled them a "whorelike immigrant group."

Immigration Minister Yair Tsaban of the left-wing Meretz bloc contested Ms. Namir's statement, saying that only 15 per cent of the arrivals were elderly and less than two per cent infirm.

He argued that Israel's economic growth of 30 per cent in the past five years, unequalled in any Western country, was the result of the immigration.

Some 600,000 immigrants have arrived since 1989, most of them from republics of the former Soviet Union.

Iran panel to combat profiteering

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's government, reacting to growing complaints about high prices, has set up a commission to combat profiteering, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

It said the commission was set up at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who on Friday vowed to crack down on profiteers.

IRNA said Mr. Rafsanjani "called on producers, distributors and shopkeepers to expect profits only within reasonable limits."

It said the commission groups the ministers of oil, economy, commerce, finance, industries, agriculture and construction, the central bank governor and a presidential administrative deputy.

"The commission is to oversee all aspects of production, distribution and sale of consumer products in a bid to keep consumer prices at reasonable levels," IRNA added.

He said the government was spurred into action after some businessmen, taking advantage of public anger over fuel price rises that would not take effect before next March, jacked up prices in the past few months.

Villagers stone mayor blamed for revealing their sex lives

SIWA, Egypt (AFP) — Residents of an oasis village pelted their mayor with stones, seriously injuring him after tales of their homosexuality and unfaithful wives appeared in an Egyptian women's magazine.

Many of the 10,000 bedouins of Siwa, near the Libyan border, blamed Mayor Abdul Wahab Tahoun when the popular women's weekly Nisf Al Donia published a report on their sex lives last week.

Mr. Tahoun told the magazine that "the residents of Siwa have remained isolated from the outside world and that is why their customs and traditions are still rooted in the past."

The magazine also quoted unnamed village officials as saying "certain people tell of abnormal relations between men."

"The numerous barriers and restrictions imposed on women" in Siwa to prevent adulterous relationships "have the opposite effect," it said. Adultery was at the root of "the divorce of 70 per cent of couples."

Villagers found the report all the more shocking as it was the first time an Egyptian publication had tackled such taboo subjects so explicitly.

Hundreds of residents gathered outside the village council building the day after the report appeared. They stoned Mr. Tahoun, seriously injuring him in the head.

He was rushed to hospital and his car was completely wrecked. Four people were arrested after the attack, police said.

Mr. Tahoun denied he revealed details of the villagers' sex lives.

"How could I talk about a subject which affects the reputation of the Siwa population?" he told AFP.

The governor of the Marsa Matruh province on the Mediterranean coast, Zaher Abdul Rahman, has now asked deputies to take action to placate Siwa residents.

A guide to the region familiar with Siwa backed up the magazine report.

"The oppression of Siwa women is the main reason for marital infidelity," he told AFP.

"Often bedouins get married at the age of 10 to young girls, most of whom have no choice in the matter — a situation which leads to adultery," he said.

"The problem is that Nisf Al Donia has revealed, like the U.N. population conference before it, practices which exist in society but which nobody dares talk about."

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo last month, caused uproar among Muslim conservatives by referring to taboo subjects such as female circumcision and sexual relations.

Thatcher son denies Saudi deal report

LONDON (Agencies) — The son of former Conservative British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has denied newspaper allegations he made millions of pounds from a major arms deal with Saudi Arabia which his mother had signed.

In an interview for Monday's Today newspaper from his home in Dallas, Texas, millionaire businessman Mark Thatcher dismissed the report.

Asked if he had ever made any money from selling arms, 41-year-old Thatcher said, "No."

"The idea that I run around peddling Kalashnikovs or second-hand MiG jets is ridiculous. I haven't even sold a penknife," he added.

The Sunday Times, in a story published on the eve of the opening of the annual Conservative Party conference, alleged that Mark Thatcher secretly earned £12 million (\$19 million) in commission for helping to secure a £20 billion (\$32 billion) arms deal, known as the Al Yamamah Agreement.

The allegations could embarrass the former premier, since her son's involvement could be at odds with rules designed to prevent conflict between the private and public interests of cabinet ministers, the newspaper said.

Members of the opposition Labour Party demanded an inquiry. Mark Thatcher told Today he would be reluctant to return to Britain for any such investigation because "it would be a no-win situation."

Under the Al Yamamah deal, described by British press as the biggest arms deal of the century, Britain agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with jet fighters, naval mine-hunters and ammunition.

The Sunday Times said its allegations were confirmed by transcripts of telephone calls between members of the Saudi royal family and its agents in the deal which were secretly taped by Saudi intelligence agents monitoring rival bids.

Further confirmation came from British dealers and retired British defence officials, the newspaper said. The Defence Ministry declined to comment.

Margaret Thatcher, Conservative prime minister from 1979 to 1990 when John Major succeeded her, played an active role in winning the Saudi deal against fierce foreign competition, visiting Riyadh in April 1985.

Five months later she signed an initial agreement which clinched the first part of the deal.

The deal was the subject of an investigation by Britain's National Audit Office, a gov-

ernment watchdog committee, but a key parliamentary committee vetoed the release of the report on the grounds of national security.

The Sunday Times quoted from transcripts of tapes in which members of the Saudi royal family talk about Mark Thatcher's "excellent connections" with the British government during the negotiations for the deal.

"Although his actions over the Saudi deal are not illegal, they are likely to raise questions over how he was allowed so brazenly to profit from his mother's political position, and why she took no action to stop it," said the newspaper.

The newspaper said it got tapes of conversations about the deal from a Saudi diplomat at the United Nations, Mohammad Khilewi. He defected in May and was granted political asylum in the United States after leaking details of an alleged Saudi nuclear programme.

Mark Thatcher has long been accused in the British press of trading on his mother's fame and of being linked to arms dealing generally, including an attempt by a huge company to sell Iraq a huge gun, the "super gun."

Mrs. Thatcher has always refused to discuss her son or answer questions in parliament.

Britain's opposition Labour Party on Sunday demanded that Mr. Major order a public inquiry.

"There are two main questions that must be answered," said Labour's parliamentary trade spokesman Robin Cook. "What influence did Mark Thatcher sell in return for these millions and how much did Margaret Thatcher use her public office to promote her son to make a private fortune?"

No comment could be obtained from Mrs. Thatcher's office.

In one bugged conversation, according to the newspaper, Abdul Aziz Al Ibrahim discusses with another member of the Saudi royal family the merits of using Mark Thatcher. He said, "Mark has excellent connections with the government and he has good information."

British commentators have periodically questioned the source of Mark Thatcher's wealth accumulated during the 1980s.

In Houston, Texas, the founder of a local fuels company is currently claiming in a lawsuit that Mark Thatcher funded a stockholders scheme to strip him of his company interests.

Mark Thatcher is Mrs. Thatcher's only son. He has a twin sister, Carol.

Mahdi confirms junta talks with opposition

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudan's Muslim fundamentalists-backed regime has begun talks with its political opponents, ousted Premier Sadeq Al Mahdi said in an interview published by the Arabic daily Al Hayat on Monday.

Dr. Mahdi, who was overthrown when General Omar Al Beshir seized power in a June 1989 coup, confirmed reports that he himself had met senior members of the junta, but refused to name them.

He stated, nevertheless, that he had not met Khartoum's Islamic leader Hassan

Al Turabi, seen as the hidden authority behind the junta and former head of one of the political parties it banned. Dr. Turabi is also Dr. Mahdi's brother-in-law.

"There have been meetings and discussions, but some people both in the government and in the opposition do not want any dialogue," said Dr. Mahdi, who led successive fragile coalitions with his Umma Party after being democratically elected in April 1986.

"I'm in favour of dialogue it leads to democracy and peace," he added.

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PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 ... Embroidered Porte N I
18:00 ... Les Six Compagnons
18:30 ... News in French
19:00 ... The New Nations
19:30 ... Nature of Things
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Leave It To Beaver
21:10 ... Shades of L.A.
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature Film: "Majority Rule"
23:30 ... The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

06:14 ... Fajr
06:32 ... (Gherbel) Dhuhr
11:33 ... Dhuhr
14:41 ... 'Asr
17:15 ... Maghrib
18:31 ... 'Isa

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St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637440
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
St. John's Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675961
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will continue with skies cloudy to partly cloudy. Thunder showers are expected and winds will be southerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman ... 18/30
Aqaba ... 22/36
Djaza ... 22/36
Jordan Valley ... 18/32

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
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Min./Max. temp.
Amman ... 18/30
Aqaba ... 22/36
Djaza ... 22/36
Jordan Valley ... 18/32

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour ... 750197
Dr. Farouq Nour ... 786680
Dr. Rabb Zaitoun ... 888685
Dr. Khalidoun Klob ... 816715
Firas pharmacy ... 644945
Ferdous pharmacy ... 778336
Al Asma pharmacy ... 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoubi pharmacy ... 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ... 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672
Najib pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shogairi ... 246140
Alquds pharmacy ... (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd ... 989000
Khilaf pharmacy ... 985417

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity
readings: Amman 30 per cent,
Aqaba 52 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341
Rescue ... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police 192 ... 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 617101
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 943002
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 63021
Hotel Complaints ... 603800
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage ... 897467
Amman Municipality ... 897467
Complaints ... 897467
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 910230
Central Amman Telephone ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 773111
Radio Jordan ... 774111
Water Authority ... 681109
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 816515

Electric Power ... 636381
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 08-53200

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816

Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital ... 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali ... 6661237
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen ... 7771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 7751176
Army, Marja ... 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital ... 686100
Amal Hospital ... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732
Al-Hama Modern Hospital ... (09)99090

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital ... (02)72355
Greek Catholic Hospital ... (02)72723
De Al Nafes Hospital ... (02)74100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ... (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 ... Damascus (RJ)
07:30 ... Dhahran (RJ)
07:45 ... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:15 ... Vienna (RJ)
08:30 ... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 ... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 ... London (RJ)
10:30 ... Frankfurt (RJ)
14:35 ... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816

Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
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10:30 ... London (RJ)
10:30 ... Frankfurt (RJ)
14:35 ... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:30 ... Vienna (OS)
06:30 ... Cairo (MS)
17:00 ... Rome (AZ)
20:00 ... Aden (DY)
20:15 ... Beirut (ME)
23:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 ... Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 ... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 ... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:35 ... Paris (RJ)
11:55 ... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
12:55 ... London (RJ)
13:30 ... Madrid (RJ)
19:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 ... Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:50 ... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:30 ... Cairo (MS)
10:20 ... Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
13:00 ... Khartoum (SD)
13:50 ... Vienna (OS)
21:00 ... Aden (DY)
00:30 ... Amsterdam (KL)
00:50 ... Bucharest (RO)

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A WORLDLY DISPLAY: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opens Um Al Hussein Charity Bazaar organised by 28 Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman. On display were samples of handicrafts, foods and other national products of the participating countries. The proceeds from the event will benefit Um Al Hussein orphanage. Princess Basma is accompanied here by Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi and Mrs. Afridi (Petra photo)

Majali calls for press code of honour

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday urged the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to adopt what he called a journalism code of honour that would work to handle any violations of the Press and Publications Law by a disciplinary council rather than refer violators to the courts.

Speaking at his office with JPA President Suleiman Qudah and members of the JPA board, the prime minister also demanded that, with or without just cause, the press stop elaborating on issues of corruption in the country, saying that such practices were costing the Kingdom its credibility and reputation abroad.

The prime minister expressed the government's keenness to safeguard freedom of the press and expression, and respect all opinions and constructive criticism. Dr. Majali added that the Jordanian press should follow

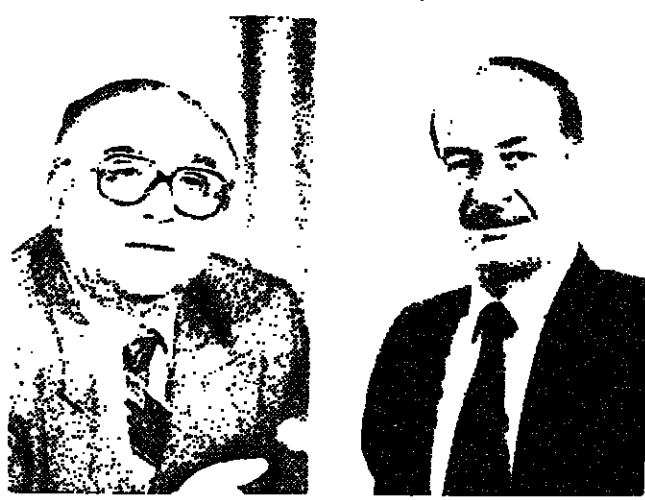
the example of the Western media not only in its free and fair coverage of various events, but also in rallying to support the government's positions on issues of national interest.

Former Minister of Information Maan Abu Nowar last year made a similar proposal for a journalists' code of honour, but was it promptly rejected by journalists and criticised in the newspaper columns.

Article 4 of the law governing the JPA makes it incumbent on the association to "protect the ethics of the profession, its principles and traditions, organise the practising of journalism, and raise its standard."

In addition, Article 8 of the Press and Publications Law prohibits newspapers from publishing any material considered by the law as violating the values respected by the Arab and Islamic nation.

The JPA had presented Dr. Majali with a list of de-



Abdul Salam Majali

mands, including a request to end court trials of journalists whose writings were considered by the government as violating the Press and Publications Law.

According to JPA board member Samir Hiyari, there are currently more than 30 cases before the courts in-



Suleiman Qudah

volving writers of daily and weekly newspapers. Mr. Hiyari said the JPA has pressed for an end to such trials.

He told the Jordan Times that the prime minister promised to look into the matter, but that he also insisted that the JPA form a disciplinary

council and consider an honour code to deal with violations instead of referring such cases to court.

Mr. Qudah presented the prime minister with a request for state-owned land to be given to JPA members for housing.

Dr. Majali gave his initial consent to study the request, said Mr. Hiyari.

Mr. Qudah also requested that reporters employed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, be given a professional allowance and be subject to a special salary scale similar or equivalent to professionals earning an extra "professional allowance."

Again, the prime minister agreed to look into the case, said Mr. Hiyari.

Dr. Majali also listened to JPA preparations for the hosting of a general conference in Amman in January 1995 by the International Journalists Organisation (IJO) that is expected to gather journalists from 120 countries.

Population census expected within 2 months

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A population census will be within the next two months, or at the latest by the spring, head of the Department of Statistics Abdulhadi Alawin told the Jordan Times Monday.

The reference day for the census had been set for November 15, but "certain things necessitated its postponement," he said.

"A ministerial committee will convene shortly to decide upon the exact date for the census. We expect it to be taken in the next two months, or at the very latest in the spring of 1995," Dr. Alawin said.

He added that the government was very aware of the importance of a population census.

The statistics department's original decision to cancel the census was issued last week, the reason for which was to prevent any linkage between it and the peace process.

Al-Rai columnist Fahed Fanek expressed his dissatis-

faction with the excuse in an article on Oct. 3.

Dr. Fanek said Monday that he received a telephone call last Thursday from the prime minister who inferred that the prime minister was also dissatisfied with the reason given.

"The prime minister is urging the census to go ahead. The important point is not when it will happen, but rather that it will happen soon," Dr. Fanek said.

"I think that its postponement is probably due to internal problems within the statistics department," Dr. Fanek added.

The cancellation of the census was subsequently retracted and its rescheduling confirmed.

Dr. Alawin said that around 8,000 people would be employed to carry out a door-to-door head count.

The Department of Statistics will coorganise training programmes with the Ministry of Education for enumerators.

"We will be coordinating with the Ministry of Educa-

tion to provide training courses of three to four days duration for those involved in the head count," said Dr. Alawin.

The enumerators will be separated into groups of three or four who will be responsible for a certain number of houses, all of which have to be visited within a specific number of days, he explained.

He would not say how many houses each group would be responsible for or the exact number of days the count would take, but he gave an example of 100 houses to be visited in the course of five days.

"When a reference day is set, it will be announced so that people will know the day on which they must record the number of persons who slept in the house. I expect 95 per cent of the population to be aware of the date appointed as the reference day," Dr. Alawin told the Jordan Times.

To ensure precision he said that the data collected each

day would be processed immediately.

"In the event of a mistake, the enumerator must return directly to the field to make the correction," he said.

According to Dr. Alawin, the population numbered 2.2 million at the last census in 1979.

Following the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991 and the subsequent strain in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, he said, approximately 300,000 Jordanians working in the Gulf were repatriated.

"The census will provide exact figures concerning this issue," he said.

Dr. Alawin said that the size of the Jordanian family had decreased over the last 20 years, and that the average fertility rate currently stood at 6.8 births among child-bearing women.

According to the National Population Commission, child-bearing women range in age between 15 to 49 years.

The population of Jordan is currently estimated at around 4 million.

Largest computer network now accessible

By Matt Denny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Internet, the world's largest computer network, is now accessible in Jordan to anyone with a computer and a modem.

Brought to the Kingdom through the efforts and investments of the National Information Center (NIC) and National Equipment Technical Services (NETS), Internet, according to Sakher Smerat, communications consultant for the NIC, is simply a web of connections between computers of all uses — industrial, academic, medical and personal — which can be accessed through a phone line by a modem.

There is no one location that houses Internet and no administration that controls it, instead Internet is an unmovable but highly useful tool, says Philip Elmer-Dewitt, Internet researcher and technology writer.

In Jordan, the NIC has recently connected to Internet through a direct link in Egypt. The Royal Scien-

tific Society (RSS) is the first institution to connect to Internet through NIC.

Personal computer users have followed sooner than projected with a simpler and less expensive link through NETS.

According to Mr. Elmer-Dewitt, there are currently 20 to 30 million individual Internet users, a figure which is growing by 160,000 people per month, he added.

For these beginners, Internet can be a maze of twisted paths and hidden information, but with the development of Internet-managing programme, 10-year-old children are using the network, says Rick Ayre, author and Internet expert.

According to Richard J. Smith and Mark Gibbs, co-authors of "Navigating the Internet," the most popular services provided by Internet fall into four distinct categories: e-mail, downloading files, newsgroups and the running of programmes on other computers.

Electronic mail or e-mail

is the single most utilised service Internet provides. Of the 25 million people Internet reaches, most, if not all, use this service. With e-mail the user can send mail via computer to anyone on the Internet worldwide. A subscriber can request searches for files and have the results mailed back to him/her as well as have world and national news mailed daily to the subscriber's computer.

Another popular service is the ability to download files. Downloading is the retrieval of files from one computer to another or the transfer of information between computers. Internet users can download anything from oceanography data to current satellite pictures of the weather because millions of computers can be accessed through a desktop personal computer linked to the system.

Still another feature offered by Internet is access to the Usenet newsgroups and mailing lists. These are like bulletin boards stocked with ideas

and information by millions of people in almost every country, discussing just about any topic. There is a newsgroup that discusses nothing but accordions, for example. At any given time, anyone can join a debate with people in any of the 5,500 newsgroups currently on line.

Using other computers to run software that is not on an individual's own computer is another facility of Internet. This is a tremendously useful tool to those whose computers have limited memory or compatibility, and averts overloading which can slow down a computer's speed.

According to NETS, computer data communication is "more effective and less costly than any other method of communication, including fax, telex and telephone."

Fifty-seven computers are currently hooked up to the system according to a NETS representative, and these include home computers, businesses, schools and research groups.

Dar Al Shaab to publish white pages directory

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Monday granted Dar Al Shaab publishing and Distribution House a five year concession to print and market the Jordanian Telephone Directory (white pages).

Under an agreement signed between the Ministry of Post and Communications and Dar Al Shaab, the publishers receive the publishing rights to the phone books in exchange for JD 90,000 to be

paid to the ministry in five annual instalments.

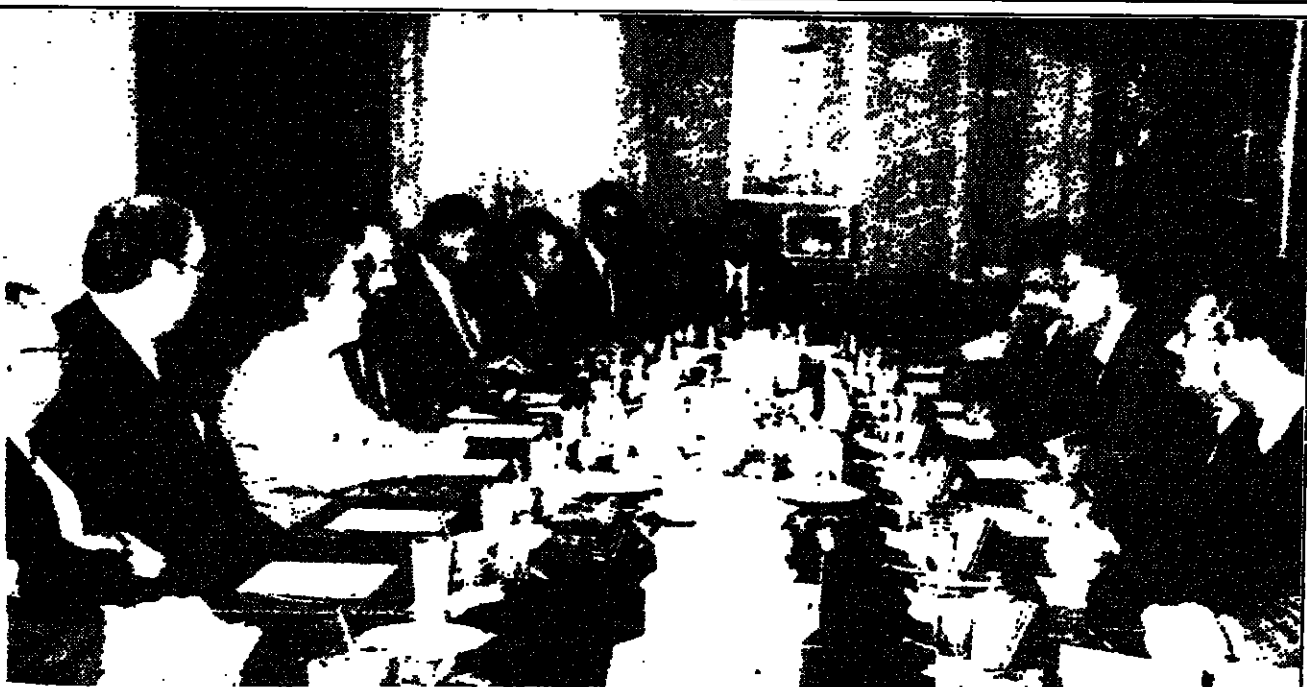
The two sides will later decide on the pricing of the directories in view of the cost of production, according to the agreement, signed by Dar Al Shaab Board Chairman Abdul Hay Majali and Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas.

The agreement also provides for Dar Al Shaab to

publish new editions of the directories in the first, third and fifth years of the agreement. It also stipulates that publication of the phone books can take place also in the second and fourth years as well, if the volume of directory changes exceeds five per cent of the entries. Otherwise, it said, only a supplement to the directory can be published.

Following the signing ceremony, Dr. Dabbas said that the ministry granted Dar Al Shaab the concession in a bid to support the firm which is 67 per cent owned by the state.

Mr. Majali said Dar Al Shaab hopes to put the new directory on the market within three months of receiving the lists of subscribers to the telephone service.



SUPPLY ISSUES: Visiting U.S. Governor of Kansas Joan Finney Monday holds a round of talks with officials here to discuss economic and supply cooperation. The two sides discussed the prospect of Jordan benefiting from Kansas University's expertise in trade and agriculture, especially in producing wheat and

bread-making, and from U.S. expertise in storing wheat in silos. Following the meeting Mrs. Finney was taken on a tour of warehouses run by the Ministry of Supply at Jweideh. Mrs. Finney, who arrived Sunday on a five-day visit, is also expected to discuss Jordan's imports of U.S. wheat (Petra photo)

Danish team to join Jordan, PNA in review of business prospects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting in Amman next week is expected to offer a closer and detailed view of prospects of Jordanian and Palestinian cooperation in business ventures and an international perspective of investment and business opportunities in the Middle East.

The one-day Jordanian-Palestinian-Danish event, held under the auspices of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry, will be attended by a large Danish delegation headed by Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Henrik Nojok.

Apart from a keynote address by Crown Prince Hassan, the meeting is expected to be an opportunity to hear the viewpoints and expectations of both Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in terms of investment possibilities, agri-

culture and agro-industry, energy and infrastructure, environment and water and investment in tourism.

Observers noted that it would be one of the rare fora where Jordanian and Palestinian officials and experts interact with foreign businessmen and said that they expected many of the as-yet unclear economic plans, policies and strategies of the PNA in the context of Jordan as well as the international business community to be unveiled at the meeting.

Presenting investment possibilities in Jordan and the role of the private sector will be Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Anani.

Ahmad Quriea, minister of economy, industry and trade in the Palestine National Authority in Gaza and Jericho, will present the same theme in the context of the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Quriea is the only confirmed and identified PNA participant in the pre-

sentation of papers at the seminar. However, it is confirmed that senior PNA ministers or officials will be taking part and presenting the Palestinian perspective on every issue to be discussed.

Jordanian and Palestinian officials will also speak about agriculture and agro-industry, and they will be joined by Mogens Dinesen, a senior official of Grundfos Gulf Distribution, a Danish expert.

Planning Minister Hisham Al Khatib will present a lecture on industry, energy and infrastructure. In addition to a PNA representative, joining the presentation will be Paul Van Der Kam, managing director of the Dangroup International Consulting Engineers and Planners.

Similarly, Anis Muasher, a former minister and current president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, is tentatively expected to discuss environment and water and conservation of nature. In addi-

tion to a similar PNA presentation, the Danish view will be presented by Mogens Heering, deputy director of Cowl Consult, consulting engineers and planners.

Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan will present a paper on investment in tourism. Joining the presentation, in addition to a PNA delegate, will be Enan Glaly, chairman of Helnan International Hotels.

In addition to the debates on the various topics included in the agenda, one-to-one meetings between interested parties from all sides will also be arranged, the Chamber of Industry said.

The Danish delegation, which will be in Jordan between Oct. 16 and 20, will include leading manufacturers and exporters, architects, consulting engineers, in dairy plants, shipping companies, travel agents, experts in the environment and ecology, waste-collection and disposal, food technology, pharmaceuticals and refrigeration and contractors.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibitions of abstract art by Waddah Al Ward, Ghassan Abu Laban, and Saheb Ahmad at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wafiq Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
- Ceramics exhibition by Khaled Abdul Sattar at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi' Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Faruqi at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).
- Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

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JD 17.5 for ladies

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Great Food ... Non Stop Beer Flow ... Dancing Prizes & Fun

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3rd man emerges at centre of Swiss cult death mystery

GENEVA (R) — An elegant, elderly third man emerged Monday as a central figure in the sun cult mass death mystery that has taken the lives of at least 53 people in Switzerland and Canada.

As the drama took on increasingly international proportions, with police in Australia and France launching their own inquiries, Swiss investigators were reported to be looking for a third man, Camille Pilet.

Mr. Pilet, a 68-year-old former sales executive for a leading Swiss watch firm, was last seen with the two recognised leaders of the Order of the Solar Temple, Joseph Di Mambro and Luc Joutet, the weekend before the bodies were found.

The short, gold-spectacled Pilet signed the bill on his credit card after the three men and several other apparent cult members spent a long evening in a private room at a hotel on Sept. 30, five days before the tragedy.

Swiss newspaper and television reports have suggested that the meeting — half-way between the two Swiss villages where a total of 48

people were found dead last Wednesday — may have been called to organise the affair.

The reports say Mr. Pilet has been sighted with the two cult chiefs several other times recently.

He bought one of the chalets in the hamlet of Granges, where 25 people died from Mr. Di Mambro only days before it burned down.

The owner of another restaurant west of Geneva told reporters she had heard Mr. Pilet on the telephone there on Sept. 21 speaking proudly of organising an expensive installation of "mirrors everywhere."

The hidden basement cult temple near the farming village of Cheiry where 23 bodies were found — 19 laid out in a sun-shaped circle — had huge mirrors all round the walls. There were also mirrors in a smaller temple at Granges.

Police have declined to say whether they have an arrest warrant out for Mr. Pilet as well as Mr. Di Mambro, a French Canadian businessman, and Mr. Joutet, a Belgian homeopathic doctor.

But they have confirmed they would like to talk to him. Swiss media reported last week that Mr. Pilet was in police custody in Geneva. Police denied the reports.

On Sunday, Swiss television said 70-year-old Di Mambro, who is now widely believed to have been the mastermind behind the sect, had been identified by relatives as among the dead in Granges, but police have refused to confirm this.

On Monday, several of the bodies retrieved from two burned-out chalets in the Alpine hamlet, 160 kilometres to the south of Cheiry, were moved from the regional capital of Sion to an autopsy centre in Lausanne.

All the bodies from Cheiry are already at the city's Medical-Legal Institute. Although names of Canadians believed to have died in the two villages have been released in Montreal, none has been officially revealed in Switzerland.

Swiss police at first thought they were dealing with collective suicide. Now they believe that while some cult members may have accepted death willingly others were

murdered, either shot or injected with drugs and left to die by fire.

Canadian police say that three of the five dead in a fire-gutted house owned by Mr. Di Mambro at Morin Heights near Montreal were definitely murdered. They were a Swiss gardener for Mr. Di Mambro, his British wife and their infant son.

In another grotesque twist, the passports of Mr. Di Mambro and his wife Jocelyne arrived by mail at the French Interior Ministry in Paris, addressed to Minister Charles Pasqua, according to an official statement Sunday.

In Sydney, Australian police said they were investigating cult links there after immigration records revealed that Mr. Di Mambro, presumed "pope" of the sect, had visited the country on six occasions since 1986, sometimes with Mr. Joutet.

The Australian police said they were looking into a claim in a letter purporting to come from sect leaders which said cult members "left this world on Jan. 6, 1994, at 0400 hours in Sydney." Records showed Mr. Di Mambro was in Australia at the time.



A demonstrator is subdued by police during a march and rally against the Criminal Justice Bill in London's Hyde Park (AFP photo)

41 charged after violent London riot

LONDON (R) — British police said Monday they had arrested and charged 41 people after violent disturbances erupted at a weakened civil rights march in central London.

A police spokesman said 33 people were appearing in court Monday, most charged with public order offences and riot. The rest would have later hearings.

Eleven police officers were treated in hospital after the clashes — the most violent in the capital since riots against the government's "poll tax" in 1990. Police said three officers were still in hospital Monday.

Hundreds of rioters hurled bottles, cans and bricks at baton-wielding police in Park Lane, which runs alongside Hyde Park where the march had ended. They then fled into the adjoining Oxford Street shopping area.

A hard core of marchers demolished bus stands, smashed windows and

burned bonfires of rubbish in the street as they fought off charges by police in riot gear.

Police, who had to shield confused tourists caught up in the fray, swept in lines across the large park as a loudspeaker from a helicopter circling overhead warned the rioters to disperse.

Police Chief Superintendent Dick Cullen, who was in charge of police at the demonstration, blamed anarchist groups "who are not averse to violence and disorder." The groups included class war and the Socialist Workers Party, Chief Cullen said.

"They really are anarchists. They are the numbers that always turn up on political demonstrations who cannot be controlled by peaceful means," he told reporters.

"They hide themselves in the crowd. They like to hide behind women and children and say the police are being violent to these people."

Police said the violence was at times worse than during the 1990 "poll tax" riots, in which hundreds of demonstrators battled police in London's Trafalgar Square and elsewhere. Then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had to abandon the local funding tax because of the virulent opposition it aroused.

As in 1990, police were accused of provoking the riots with heavy-handed tactics.

Jeremy Corbyn, a member of parliament for the opposition Labour Party who chaired the rally, called for a disciplinary investigation.

"The policing tactics at the end of this demonstration exacerbated the situation, set it all off, and from then it went from bad to worse," he told a news conference.

"It was incompetent policing at that point. A lower-key policing approach would have helped to defuse the situation."

China hits out at U.K. over Taiwan rally in Hong Kong

BEIJING (AFP) — China hit out at Britain Monday for allowing Taiwan's supporters in Hong Kong to celebrate the island's national day, warning that Sino-British relations had been complicated as a result.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said the decision to let the two-hour celebration go ahead at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre violated London's recognition of Beijing's Communist government as the sole ruler of all China.

"The British move once again shows that what the British side says does not square with what it does, and

that it lacks goodwill in improving Sino-British relations," said the statement, distributed by the Xinhua News Agency.

"It has not only seriously hurt the feelings of the Chinese people, but has also added difficulties to Sino-British relations," it said.

Some 2,000 of Taiwan's supporters gathered at the cultural centre Monday to sing the island's national anthem and to shout, "Long life to the Republic of China," the official name of the Nationalist Chinese government in Taipei.

Relations between Beijing

and London have been strained for two years over Governor Chris Patten's administration.

Heavy security protected the harbour-side hall where Taiwan's unofficial representatives arrived to celebrate the "double ten" national day, but there was no trouble.

No Taiwanese flags or banners could be seen advertising the event, but this did not appear to mollify China whose representatives in Hong Kong once again denounced the colony's British-run government for not banning the event.

S. Korean president triggers storm

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam has provoked embarrassment at home and anxiety in Washington for making headline comments about North Korea and publicly criticising the U.S. approach to Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

In an interview with the New York Times Friday, Mr. Kim lashed out at what he characterised as Washington's ignorance of North Korea and its overzealousness to compromise with the isolated Stalinist state.

He also insisted that the North Korea regime was on the verge of an economic and political crisis that could sweep it from power and argued that Washington should stiffen, not ease, its position to pressure Pyongyang into abandoning its

suspected nuclear weapons programme the daily said.

Compromise, he asserted, might only prolong the life of the North Korea regime and send the wrong signal to the leadership in Pyongyang.

"We should not make more concessions in the future," Mr. Kim was quoted as saying.

"If the United States wants to settle with a half-baked compromise and the media wants to describe it as a good agreement, they can. But I think it would bring more danger and peril," he said.

Two days later, Mr. Kim repeated his criticism in an interview with a leading Japanese newspaper, Asahi Shimbun, where he was quoted as calling the Clinton administration "rude and weak" in dealing with North Korea.

Mr. Kim's remarks also encountered criticism from South Korea's opposition.

The South Korean criticism of the way the U.S. is negotiating with North Korea drew a sharp rejection Sunday from Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Stung by media reports, Mr. Christopher called South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung Ju during a refueling stop on his way to the Middle East and told reporters travelling with him that he had expressed his concern.

Mr. Christopher, responding at a news conference here, said U.S. negotiator Robert Gallucci's talks with North Korea in Geneva have "the prospect of reaching a very positive solution," namely ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

Over 11,000 arrested ahead of Pakistani strike

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Pakistani opposition Monday said more than 11,000 people had been arrested on the eve of a general strike but government officials said the claim was exaggerated.

A spokesman for opposition leader and former Premier Nawaz Sharif told AFP that police arrested about 11,500 people, including some 5,500 from Sharif's power base in the densely populated province of Punjab, in the past 48 hours.

But government officials dismissed the claim, saying only a few hundred people had been detained to prevent violence during the scheduled commercial strike Tuesday, that is also aimed at crippling transport.

The officials, said Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) was planning to take up the matter with international human rights organisations, and called the arrests "illegal" as they had been effected without warrants.

Punjab Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo, talking to reporters in Lahore late Sunday, said some 900 people had been arrested in his province. Reports from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of southern Sindh said about 200 people had been taken into custody.

The local administration has banned the gathering of more than five people in Islamabad and also disallowed pillion riding on motor bikes for security reasons.

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'No time to lose on global warming'

WELLINGTON (R) — Australia's environment minister said Monday no country could postpone action on global warming, as scientists released data showing South West Pacific temperatures had risen half a degree over just 40 years.

"No country can wait for greater certainty about specific aspects of global warming before we find solutions," John Faulkner told an environmental conference in New Zealand.

"If we wait until we know specifically what the costs associated with climate change are, it could well be too late."

Scientists said surface air temperatures in the South-West Pacific had warmed by 0.4 to 0.6 degrees Celsius (0.7 to one degree Fahrenheit) since 1951, with the strongest increase occurring since 1975. Sea levels had risen by two millimetres (0.07 inches) a year.

"This area of the world seems to show the most warming of any area we know of," said Jim Salinger of New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

Environmental organisations such as Greenpeace are

warning of a "climate time bomb," saying extreme weather events such as droughts are consistent with the first signs of a man-made "greenhouse effect" from the burning of fossil fuels.

Australian scientist Neville Nicholls said that while "greenhouse gases" such as carbon dioxide were prime suspects behind global warming, it was too early to say for sure.

"The consensus is that we're at least five to 10 years away from being able to say that," he said.

"The bottom line is we can't say that it's due to human activity, even though human activity — that is, more greenhouse gases — has to be a strong contender as the cause of this warming."

Mr. Salinger said temperatures across a huge swathe from Western Australia to Queensland had risen by 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.36 F) per decade for the last 40 years.

Australian scientist Barrie Pittock said research into global warming suggested the greenhouse effect would lead to more intense rainstorms alternating with long dry periods.

"The work we've been

doing indicates increases in rainfall intensity — when it rains, it tends to rain harder under enhanced greenhouse conditions," he said.

"So that means that you may have rain which falls which in some cases will run off more and be less effective for crops, and there may be longer dry spells in between."

The scientists cautioned, however, against linking man-made "greenhouse" factors to a severe drought which is entering its fourth year in some parts of Queensland and New South Wales.

They said the drought, known as "big dry", had more to do with "el nino", a recurring pattern of sea temperatures that reduces the flow of warm moist air towards Australia.

Australia's Faulkner said his country would launch pilot schemes with South Pacific nations to seek ways of replacing fossil fuel power sources with solar power or wind energy.

But he acknowledged that, on present trends, Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000 were likely to be seven per cent higher than in 1990.

U.K. Tories gather 10 years after IRA blast

LONDON (AFP) — Leaders of Britain's ruling Conservative Party held their annual conference this week, free for the first time in a decade of the fear of a repetition of the 1984 IRA attack that nearly killed then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Ten years after the Oct. 12 bomb blast at a hotel in the southern coastal resort of Brighton, Mrs. Thatcher's successor John Major is on the verge of entering into talks with the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, Sinn Féin, as the IRA shows no sign of ending the ceasefire it declared last Sept. 1.

Even so, as in previous years, this week's Tory conference taking place along the coast at Bournemouth will be subject to the strict security measures which have been in force ever since the Brighton bomb.

Oct. 12 sees the opening of this year's conference, but on the same date 10 years ago it was on the point of ending. At 2:34 in the morning Mrs. Thatcher was working in the Grand Hotel on her closing speech for later that day when the upper part of the building was torn by a huge explosion.

The bomb, apparently planted well in advance of the conference, was hidden in a bathroom on the sixth floor of the seafront hotel, not far from Mrs. Thatcher's own suite. But the prime minister escaped unhurt because she

had not gone to her room. The blast caused the collapse of the facade and a number of floors, killing five people, including a member of parliament and the wife of the government chief whip, and injuring more than 30.

An undaunted Thatcher, leaving the shattered hotel, declared to journalists "the conference will go on normally."

When it resumed on schedule, she told delegates the bomb attack "was an attempt to cripple Her Majesty's democratically-elected government."

"That is the scale of the outrage in which we have all shared. And the fact that we are gathered here now, shocked but composed and determined, is a sign not only that this attack has failed, but that all attempts to destroy democracy by terrorism will fail."

Claiming responsibility, the IRA replied: "Mrs. Thatcher will now realise that Britain cannot occupy our country and torture our prisoners and shoot our people on our streets and get away with it. Today we were unlucky, but remember — we have only to be lucky once. You will have to be lucky always."

A decade on, with memories of Brighton still fresh in some memories, Mr. Major could face criticism in Bournemouth from party right-wingers who feel it is still far

too early to be talking to those who tried for years by violent methods to force the British out of Northern Ireland.

Among them are Sir Norman Tebbit, Mrs. Thatcher's trade and industry secretary at the time, who with his wife Margaret was one of the victims of the Grand Hotel explosion. Mr. Tebbit did not return to the House of Commons for three months, while his wife was paralysed for life.

Meanwhile, Britain's opposition Labour Party Monday called for a government inquiry into allegations Mark Thatcher, son of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, made a fortune from a Saudi arms deal signed by his mother.

The Sunday Times alleged Mark Thatcher, 41, earned £12 million (\$20 million) in commission for helping to secure a £20 billion (\$31.82 billion) arms deal, known as the Al Yamamah agreement — the biggest ever signed by Britain.

Mr. Thatcher, who has been dogged for years by rumours about the sources of his wealth, has denied arms trading. In an interview for Monday's Today newspaper from his home in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Thatcher dismissed the report. Asked if he had ever made any money from selling arms, he said "No."

"The idea that I run around peddling Kalash-

nikovs or second-hand MiG jets is ridiculous. I haven't even sold a penknife," said Mrs. Thatcher who left Britain in the mid-1980s when his shadowy business life first began to blossom.

The newspaper report is a huge embarrassment for the ruling Conservative Party on the eve of its annual party conference. It coincides with an opinion poll which showed more than 60 per cent of people deemed the Conservative "sleazy and disreputable."

Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley said Monday that Labour's trade and industry spokesman Robin Cook, the man who demanded a government inquiry, was once again acting as "witchfinder-in-chief."

"That (issue) is a matter for the people concerned, it is nothing to do with this party conference," Mr. Hanley told the BBC.

"It is a matter which will be dealt with in time. They are unsubstantiated rumours. Mark Thatcher, I gather, has denied them but we can't comment on them here because they are nothing to do with our business."

The party has already been hurt by allegations about an arms for aid deal with Malaysia and secret arms trading with Iraq before the Gulf War. This "arms-for-Iraq" inquiry, set up by Prime Minister John Major in 1992, will report early in 1995.

Koreans find good cause to celebrate language day

SEOUL (AP) — What's related to Finnish, Turkish, Mongolian, doesn't like computers or even typewriters and celebrated its birthday Sunday? Hangul, the Korean script, which turned 548 years old. Koreans are perhaps the only people in the world to know precisely when the writing was invented and mark it with a national holiday. Seminars, exhibitions and the awarding of literary prizes commemorated the production of a 28-letter alphabet — later trimmed to 24 — which is so simple that Korea boasts virtually every adult can read and write.

"Talented persons will learn Hangul in a single morning and even fools will understand it in 10 days," King Sejong said in his Oct. 9, 1446, proclamation decreeing its use. That's somewhat of an exaggeration. It takes foreigners to produce the sounds of some Hangul's 14 vowels and 14 consonants. And Korean sentences are constructed with the verb at the end. But for the people of the Korean peninsula, who dangles tensely off southern China and has been invaded repeatedly by armies en route to someplace else, Hangul has helped create cultural distinction and national pride. During a 35-year occupation that ended with defeat in World War II, the Japanese banned the use of Hangul and changed the transiteration of the country's name from Korea, even though "C" is closer to the Hangul letter than "K."

"They couldn't tolerate Korea being positioned before Japan at any international event which goes by Roman Alphabetical order," Kim Young-Wha, a teacher of Hangul and Korean culture, wrote in the Korea Times, an English-language newspaper. Hangul Day was declared an official holiday within months of Japan's expulsion in 1945. King Sejong, whose dynasty ruled Korea for more than 500 years, ordered the invention of an alphabet to replace the use of Chinese characters, which has thousands of symbols.

Korean is an ancient language that belongs to the Ural Altaic family, like Finnish, Turkish and Mongolian, and has nothing to do with Chinese. Sejong's scholars designed an alphabet that drew pictures of how sounds are formed.

"It was incompetent policing at that point. A lower-key policing approach would have helped to defuse the situation."

Lack of research blamed for deaths of rare oxen

HANOI (AP) — The only captive specimens of the elusive Vo Quang ox died because their keepers knew little about the animals' diet and habitat, one of Vietnam's leading naturalists said Monday.

Vo Quy, director of environmental studies at Hanoi university, said the deaths were a major loss to science. He urged wildlife officials not to try to capture more oxen until they study them in their natural setting.

"It is a mistake if we catch them and put them in the zoo now," Mr. Quy said. Two Vo Quans, also called the "Sao La," died recently at a reserve outside Hanoi operated by the Ministry of Forestry, the Vietnam Investment Review reported Saturday. Ministry officials Monday confirmed the deaths but refused to give details before completing an investigation. The oxen were captured this year in a dense jungle near the mountainous Vietnam-Laos border, giving scientists their first chance to study live members of the species they discovered and classified from bones and hides in 1992. The ox is one of only seven large mammal species to be discovered this century.

Dutch public TV station goes private

HILVERSUM, Netherlands (AFP) — The Dutch television and radio station Veronica, part of the public broadcasting network, announced Saturday it was going private. The decision, announced at a press conference in this town in the north of the country, marked the first time that a public TV station had gone commercial. Veronica will become a private station from next September, when the Dutch authorities will reallocate radio frequencies and television channels for the next five years. As a private station it will be in equal partnership with the Endemol Production Company, Veronica's officials said.

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Madan Lal Khurana (centre), chief minister of the Indian capital, cleans garbage from a New Delhi street as part of a cleanliness drive. Authorities blame rubbish which is left to pile up around the city for the outbreak of the plague which killed 56 people in India, including three in New Delhi (AFP photo)

WHO team to begin probe into plague outbreak in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A team of World Health Organisation (WHO) experts is to begin its investigation this week into the outbreak of plague which has killed more than 50 people in India, a WHO spokesman said Monday.

Russian and American epidemiologists are expected to join scientists from New Delhi's National Institute for Communicable Diseases on the team being put together to look into the epidemic,

said WHO spokesman Jitendra Tuli.

"They should start coming up with some kind of explanation for the outbreak by the middle of next week," he said.

WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima said Saturday following a visit to Surat, the western Indian city where the first case of plague was diagnosed on Sept. 20, that it was too early to declare India "plague-free."

He said the country could only be considered free of the highly infectious disease 12 days after the last case was reported.

Berlusconi says no chance he would quit

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, squaring off against Italy's anti-graft magistrates, Monday declared he would not resign, even if he were to be formally investigated for corruption.

He also welcomed controversial recommendations from a panel of jurists on how to resolve a potential conflict between his continued ownership of a \$7 billion a year business empire and his role as prime minister.

"I am certain of what I've done and I find nothing in what I've done that could be criminally or even morally at fault," the media magnate-turned politician told Italian radio.

He said a formal judicial notice of investigation against him was not likely and "if there were one I think it would be totally unfounded."

"Therefore I see absolutely no reason why I should have to resign. I have a mandate from voters I believe absolutely nothing would change as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Mr. Berlusconi, elected in March, is locked in battle with Milan's "mani pulite" (Clean hands) investigators who are probing suspected ownership irregularities at Telepiu, a pay TV channel

part-owned by the prime minister's Fininvest company.

Milan's Chief Prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli hinted in a newspaper interview last week that Mr. Berlusconi himself might become implicated in the probe. The government subsequently lodged a formal complaint against the prosecutor.

The row with the magistrates, and controversy over government plans to reform public broadcaster Rai, have helped push Mr. Berlusconi's conflict of interest problem way up the political agenda.

The government Saturday published a report by three Berlusconi-appointed jurists recommending that any holder of political office with substantial business interests should put them in the hands of independent trustees.

The report was being discussed Monday by the Constitutional Affairs Commission of the Senate.

It has been slammed by the opposition for failing to recommend that Mr. Berlusconi should sell his assets, which include Italy's three main private television networks.

The federalist Northern League, a key party in Mr. Berlusconi's conservative coalition, has also given a lukewarm response.

"It's an Italian type of 'blind trust' where very little is actually blind," League leader Umberto Bossi said Sunday.

Mr. Berlusconi said he would use the jurists' proposals as the basis for a draft law that he would put to the cabinet as soon as possible and then forward to parliament.

"It seems to me that the solution they have come up with is rigorous and strict, stricter than in many other countries," Mr. Berlusconi said in the radio interview.

The plan would force ministers to put their interests into a trust and appoint an independent figure to manage them while in office but does not compel them to sell assets they hold.

The process would be scrutinised by Italy's competition authority or the country's media ombudsmen.

The plan was defended Monday by one of the three jurists, Giorgio Crisci.

He told Corriere Della Sera newspaper that under the proposals, Mr. Berlusconi would be barred from cabinet discussions on legislation concerning any area where he retained a business interest, including television.

British press in French hunt for major named as royal lover

BERGERAC, France (AFP) — Several British mass circulation newspapers have sent reporters and photographers to Bergerac in southwest France in their hunt for Major James Hewitt, alleged to be the lover of Princess Diana, local hoteliers said Monday.

"Four journalists arrived Sunday evening, loaded with cameras and long distance lenses, and then set off very early on Monday morning," said one. "But I think they've been in the area for some days."

Other reporters, up to 10 in all, have been combing the region in the hope of finding some trace of Major Hewitt, who said in a book published last week that he had a five-year affair with the princess, the now-estranged wife of Prince Charles the heir to the throne.

The British reporters believe that he passed through Bergerac Wednesday and Friday.

In London the Sun newspaper confirmed that one of its reporters, David Wooding, is offering a cash bonus to anyone living locally who can help him establish contact with Maj. Hewitt. A local newspaper, Sud-Ouest, said the reward was £5,000 (\$8,000).

"There are lots of British people who have either settled in the area around Bergerac or have holiday houses there," said Colin Bond, who publishes a monthly English-language newspaper The News in the Dordogne region.

are others, members of the aristocracy, who keep themselves to themselves. It's possible that he may know one of them."

Meanwhile, just one week after the British release of Princes In Love, a French translation went on sale Monday, representing a technical tour de force in publishing, the Paris-based editor said.

The print run for the French translation will be 85,000 copies, Presses De La Cite director Georges Leser said.

Mr. Leser told French radio that he had received the text of the book by Anna Pasternak, which describes a five-year love affair between Princess Diana and Major Hewitt only last Monday, the day the book was released in England.

Ten translators worked on the text for two days, then there were two days for corrections, and the French text went to the printer Friday.

The book, which has already seen great success in England, is to be published in at least 10 countries.

In a separate development, a former Royal Marines sergeant who claimed to have spied on the Princess of Wales making love with her former riding instructor, James Hewitt, said Sunday he had been questioned by police after telling his story to the media.

Colour Sergeant Glyn Jones, who revealed details of the 1988 secret service surveillance operation in an interview Sunday with the

noon he had been "officially cautioned" by police from Scotland Yard's Special Branch.

He added that he no longer considered the affair between the Prince of Wales' estranged wife and Maj. Hewitt to be an "official secret" but said he believed police might be preparing to charge him.

Police refused to comment on whether they had interviewed Mr. Jones.

Describing the News of the World story as "basically accurate," he declined to comment further.

"I have brought something out, got something off my chest... I don't want to say anything else... I have had enough hassle," he said.

Mr. Jones, who left the army in 1993, earlier told the paper he was ordered to coordinate surveillance by a five-man team on Maj. Hewitt's country home in Devon, southwest England, in autumn 1988.

Mr. Jones, 41, stressed he had received no money for the story, adding that he had felt able to reveal his alleged role in monitoring the liaison after Monday's publication of Princes In Love.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment on what a spokesman called "speculation," while the Defence Ministry and the Home Office said they never discussed security questions.

But a senior officer in the Royal Marines described as "absolute nonsense" the notion that soldiers would be used to "spy on VIPs."

Austria welcomes chastening of coalition

VIENNA (R) — Austria's two main parties, deeply chastened by their worst election showing since 1945, prepared Monday to begin talks on forming their third successive government.

But with their comfortable two-thirds parliamentary majority blasted away in a voter protest, the cosy post-war era of grand coalition politics was at an end, political analysts said.

Some wondered if the new government would last two years.

The Freedom Party of populist Joerg Haider did most of the damage to the Social Democrat-People's Party coalition in Sunday's election, taking 22.6 per cent of the vote to become the strongest far-right party in Western Europe.

But editorial writers saw no danger to democracy.

"Austria today sees an entirely new political landscape, and that's no bad thing... neither is it a danger to democracy," said Karl Heinz Ritschel in the daily Salzburger Nachrichten.

The two main parties had "taken possession of the state and with their party machines wielded more influence than was healthy in a democracy," he added.

Like many morning-after commentators, Mr. Ritschel questioned whether the surviving coalition, in its shrunken form, would have the courage and energy to undertake radical reforms that will be needed to see it through a new four-year term.

"Some give the grand coalition two years before it breaks up from within," the Osterreichische Nachrichten newspaper said, echoing a widespread assessment.

Conceding what he called "a very heavy, very clear defeat," Social Democrat Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said he was ready to form a new coalition, reformed by the "bitter lessons" of Sunday's election.

His partner, Vice-Chancellor Erhard Busek of the People's Party, avowed that conservatives too were ready for renewed cooperation, but there would have to be big changes.

Mr. Vranitzky was awaiting the call from President Thomas Klestil Monday for talks inviting him to form a government.

The Freedom Party, the left Greens and the centrist Liberal Forum all gained seats in the new parliament. None of them wants to join government for the time being. They say they prefer to flex their muscle for a while in opposition.

The outcome leaves a chastened coalition, with a parliamentary majority trimmed from 138 to 118, facing 42 rightists, 13 Greens and 10 liberals.

Mr. Vranitzky conceded that the new coalition would now have to seek support issue-by-issue. Analysts welcomed the change, saying Austria could expect more vigorous political debate.

"The election victor is parliamentary democracy in the Second Republic," said the mass-circulation Kurier.

By withdrawing the coalition's two-thirds majority, which permitted it to ignore opposition views on major legislation, the electorate demolished complacency, commentators said.

"The larger mentality, the tradition of party loyalty from the first election to the last, is being consigned to history," said Austria's biggest newspaper, the Neue Kronen Zeitung.

Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk, a veteran and influential Social Democrat, said the coalition now faced its "very last chance."

They would have to work at reform, "like they have

pepper up their backsides," he said on Austrian Radio.

Mr. Haider, who blames foreigners for a rise in crime and demands an immediate end to immigration, made the biggest gains in the election and boasted he would be "ready to take responsibility for all of Austria in 1998."

But, as one editor at Vienna's Die Presse remarked, "It's a long way from 23 per cent to the chancellorcy."

A wake-like atmosphere reigned at the headquarters of Austria's Social Democrat Party as Sunday's general election results rolled in, indicating the biggest steam-rolling of the Socialists since the end of World War II.

"This is a catastrophe, there is no doubt about it," said Michael Haupt, head of the Vienna party organisation and mayor-designate of Vienna.

"The alarm bells are ringing loud and clear," said Mr. Haupt, who will lead his party into a regional election in Vienna in two years' time. The Viennese Socialists suffered their heaviest-ever defeat, a loss of 11 percentage points, in what has always been a Socialist Party bastion.

In the party headquarters of the other big loser, the People's Party, the mood was even gloomier.

"We failed to make our aims clear to the voters," said OEPV General Secretary Wilhelm Molterer, the only official present to speak to journalists. "But I think the coalition was better than the voters thought," he added lamely.

The SPOE and OEPV, which together lost 22 seats, said they would probably stick together and extend their grand coalition into a third term.

Liberal leader Heide Schmidt, bidding with her fledgling party for their first



Freedom Party chairman Joerg Haider (right) is hugged by the right-wing party's General Secretary Walter Meischberger (left) as they listen to the latest polls of the Austrian general elections in their party's headquarters (AFP photo).

elected entry into parliament, sighed with relief when first forecasts showed her party had passed the four per cent threshold.

"I'm so relieved and happy," said Ms. Schmidt, who broke with Mr. Haider 18 months ago.

The Greens, whose share of the vote rose from 4.8 to 7.0 per cent, converged in a popular Viennese jazz club to celebrate.

"I think we have proved that we are serious and the voters rewarded us for it," Greens leader Madeleine Petrovic said.

At Mr. Haider's HQ, men in sharp suits and chic women in cocktail dresses clinked glasses brimming with blue-dyed champagne as the party celebrated what one called a "historic breakthrough."

Loud cheers erupted as they received news of an extra six per cent support, pushing them up to nearly 23 per cent of the national vote.

But they reserved their biggest ovation for the entry of Mr. Haider, who although "speechless" at first, quickly went on to claim he had broken the mould of post-war Austrian politics.

"We have at last left post-war Austria behind us and ushered in an genuine popular democracy," he said to cheers from the faithful in a plush Vienna hotel.

CSCE conference opens with appeal for security

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs Monday appealed to countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to give their "full support" to strengthening security and stability.

Mr. Kovacs was speaking at the opening of a conference in Budapest attended by ambassadors from 52 member states of the forum which covers a zone from Vladivostok to Vancouver. Belgrade is currently suspended from the group.

"The CSCE can play a central role in strengthening security and stability in Europe, but it cannot do it alone," Mr. Kovacs told the assembly. "There is a need for cooperation with other security institutions and, even more importantly, for the full support of governments in this endeavour."

"There is a certain security gap in Europe," Mr. Kovacs said, and he described this as "dangerous." He said that many countries, especially those in the central and eastern parts of Europe, feel insecure. "Some of them are exposed to violence and threatened by bloody conflicts."

Mr. Kovacs spoke of a "new mission to be assumed by the CSCE" which he said "could fill the existing gaps by setting up a unique structure for the countries of the continent."

He said the CSCE "can provide us with a unique conflict-prevention, management and resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation capability so badly needed in present-day Europe."

The minister stressed the need for regular debate on the implementation of the principles of the CSCE "since commitments in various fields, notably in the field of the human dimension, are, unfortunately, violated every day."

The approach should be non-confrontational, he said. "This means that raising cases where commitments are violated should not be presented as an act of accusation against countries or governments," he added.

The delegates are to spend two months in the Hungarian capital preparing for a summit of CSCE heads of state and government in the

Muslims target Serb women after tram attack

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Muslim snipers targeted two women in a Serb-held district of Sarajevo just hours after one man died and 12 people were wounded in a weekend Serb machinegun attack on city trams, U.N. officials said Monday.

The shootings were condemned by U.N. Bosnia commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose and Sarajevo sector commander Major-General Herve Gobilard, who said the attacks were "a serious threat to the civilian population."

On Saturday Serb snipers opened up on two city trams from the Serb side of the Jewish Cemetery area, perched on the hillside overlooking downtown Sarajevo.

The Serb tram attack marked the worst violation of an anti-sniping agreement that came into force on Aug. 14.

"Less than two hours later on the same day, two women were shot at and narrowly escaped injury in the area of Vojkovic," the statement said, adding that the shots had come from the Bosnian side.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Koos Sol said French U.N. troops riposted against the Bosnian attack with two bursts of 7.62mm machinegun fire, but no casualties were reported.

The attack was launched from a quarry in the Krupac area south of the city, a favoured haunt of Bosnian snipers.

Gen. Rose has written to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and rebel Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to protest the incidents, and called on both to "take all appropriate measures to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes and publicly condemn such actions, as agreed in writing on Aug. 14," the statement said.

UNPROFOR has since stepped up anti-sniping operations in Sarajevo but was forced onto the defensive Monday over charges of inaction during the attack, after television pictures which showed French U.N. soldiers taking cover while passers-by were hit.

UNPROFOR spokeswoman Claire Grimes said procedures were being studied in the wake of the attack, but said "on the one hand we are being told we should identify the point of fire and fire back to take out the people perpetrating these crimes, on the other hand we are supposed to be protecting the civilians."

The U.N. force was considering a request to put

troops on city trams, she said, but a U.N. officer privately dismissed the idea as window dressing, saying the measure would provide no protection for travellers.

Relief flights to Sarajevo proceeded smoothly Monday but a UNHCR official warned that at least a month full of airlift was needed to replenish seriously depleted stocks and avoid a city food crisis.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) planned 20 flights Monday, mirroring the previous day's operation when more than 250 tonnes of food arrived in only the second full day of airlift in three weeks.

Aid flights were suspended on Sept. 23 when two planes were hit by small arms fire, and only resumed last Friday after the Serbs lifted a threat to aircraft which had closed the airport.

However, the airlift was again suspended Saturday when Bosnian and Serb machinegunners targeted two Ukrainian U.N. transporters, sparking warnings by UNHCR spokesman Krish Janowski that the organisation's warehouse and the main city bakery had stocks for only three more days.

"To build up a two-week stock we need at least a month of good airlift," Mr. Janowski said Monday, adding that the 20-flight aid regime would "go on for a while."

Sunday's 20 flights shipped in mainly wheat flour for the bakery, sugar, vegetable oil and cheese, so-called nutritional "high-value items."

However, Mr. Janowski said the Serbs were still blocking overland aid convoys into the city and the besieged eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, despite an Oct. 1 pledge to allow free movement of convoys.

"Sept. 21 was the last time we had a land convoy in" to Sarajevo, said Mr. Janowski. UNHCR used to run two 100-tonne convoys into the Bosnian capital a week before the Serb obstruction began.

A convoy to Sarajevo was turned down Saturday as was another for Srebrenica, where some 44,000 people are crammed into a tiny pocket surrounded by the Serbs.

"They (the Serbs) said there would be free convoy movement and we have not had it except for convoys to Gorazde under the prisoner swap deal," he said, referring to a combined, prisoner exchange, medic and convoy agreement completed early Thursday.

North warns of military action against Seoul

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea warned again Monday that it was ready to take military action against South Korea if Seoul continued to criticise "fictitious activities" of the North.

"We don't want a war but are not afraid of it," the Pyongyang-based Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a dispatch monitored here.

KCNA gave the warning in reference to South Korean military leaders who reportedly called for precautions against North Korean military moves.

It said South Korea's Agency for National Security Planning Director Kim Tok, at a parliament session, "cried over fictitious activities of the North for infiltration into the South."

Mr. Kim Tok said that South Korea's National Security Law would be maintained, while South Korean army Chief of Staff Kim Tong-Jin "spun out trash about the North's arms buildup and intensified combat training" according to KCNA.

"Nobody can vouch that the ill-boding military moves of the war maniacs will not lead to a war," KCNA said. It warned: "If the Kim

repeated warnings, the puppets will have to pay dearly for it and meet a miserable doom."

On Sunday, North Korea's official Minju Joon journal warned that the Communist country might take military action if Seoul did not stop "slandering the North by fabricating facts."

"Unless the 'civilian' war maniac, who outdistances the military dictators, is removed, the nation can hardly avoid the scourge of war," Minju Joon said, referring to the administration of South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

Meanwhile the world's longest ruling Communist Party celebrated Monday its 49th founding anniversary, but official reports from Pyongyang gave no such indication.

Instead, by stressing the need for loyalty, they provided more fuel for speculation by some analysts that Kim Jong-Il might have been struggling for power since his father's death on July 8.

"Dear leader Comrade Kim Jong-Il... is the supreme leader of our party and our people," a Radio Pyongyang broadcast quoted the official party daily Rodong Sinmun.

"All party members and workers... must be endlessly loyal to the leadership of dear leader Comrade Kim Jong-Il," said the report monitored by Radiopress in Tokyo.

KCNA said Kim Jong-Il received floral baskets from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Floral tributes also came from leaders of Guyana's People's Democratic Movement and United Republican Party, the Maputo City Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front and members of the diplomatic corps.

tree from the deputy director-general of the Zhongguang Company in Yanji, China.

The somewhat scant gift list testifies to the relative isolation of the Workers' Party of Korea compared with its founding at the end of the end of World War II when international communism was in its heyday of expansion.

North Korea's once robust economy has been in severe decline since the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism in Eastern Europe, but Pyongyang can still count on support from its neighbours and long-time ally, China.

Some Pyongyang watchers in South Korea, Japan and elsewhere believe Kim Jong-Il may be formally installed in this father's leadership position after Oct. 15, when a symbolic 100-day mourning period passes.

As well as party general secretary, Kim Il-Sung also held the position of state president and the key post of head of the party's military commission.

There has been no indication of a succession date from Pyongyang, but North Korean officials deny there is

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IRAQI moves at all fronts are clearly intended to draw the world's attention to the tragedy facing the Iraqi people, created by the U.S. led Western coalition said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The Iraqis are clearly trying to end the sanctions which killed one million Iraqis in the past four years but the U.S. administration is determined to perpetuate the unjust embargo, he said. In all the statements issued by U.S. officials one can easily detect American hatred towards Iraq and the Iraqis because they represent Arabs who refuse to be subjugated to colonial desires, continued the writer. We are not encouraging Iraq to launch any attack but we want to remind the world's nations of the actions by the Western nations which devastated Cambodia, Vietnam and the Congo and committed atrocities in other parts of the world including Iraq, he added. The writer expressed hope that the world community's conscience would wake up and put an end to the unjust embargo on the Iraqi people.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hogg implies Syrians needed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg has implied Syrian troops should stay in Lebanon after a peace accord with Israel to help keep order in the short-term, in comments published Monday. Mr. Hogg told the French-language daily L'Orient-Le Jour at the end of an official visit here: "If I were a Lebanese cabinet minister, I would like to have at my disposal additional troops for a short period of time after a peace treaty (with Israel) is signed." They would be needed because "there could be problems with certain factions, namely in South Lebanon, as part of disarming these factions." Mr. Hogg left Lebanon Saturday at the end of a regional tour which also took him to Syria for talks on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Power, water supply normal in Aden

ADEN (R) — Water and power supplies, badly affected by infrastructure damage during two months of civil war in Yemen earlier this year, have been fully restored, officials said on Monday. They said repair work which lasted three months since the end of the war on July 7, had been completed.

Greeks, Cypriots stage manoeuvres

ATHENS (AFP) — The Greek and Cypriot armies held their first-ever joint military manoeuvres over the weekend as part of a bilateral accord between both countries, the Greek Ministry of Defence announced Monday. The ministry said in a communique that Greek fighter planes and a frigate took part in the Sunday exercises along with members of the Cypriot National Guard. Sources said the exercises were held near Larnaca, in Cyprus. The manoeuvres fall under a joint defence pact signed by leaders of both countries in November of last year in order to offset Turkey's military power in the region.

7 killed in Iranian ambush

TEHRAN (AFP) — A police chief and six officers were killed in an ambush by drug traffickers in northeastern Iran near the border with Afghanistan, a newspaper reported Monday. Colonel Moshallah Rajabian, police commander in Torbat-e-Jam in Khorasan province, and the six officers were ambushed shortly after engaging several traffickers in armed clashes near the border, Kayhan said without giving a date. The security men had managed to intercept a cargo of opium and hashish being smuggled in from Afghanistan and arrest two traffickers. One officer was also injured in the ambush.

Suspects in Tehran attack arrested

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian authorities have arrested six Afghans and an Iranian they say broke into the Tehran home of a Hungarian diplomat last month, seriously injuring him and killing his wife, a top security official said Monday. Brigadier General Reza Seifollahi, head of the law enforcement forces, said his men apprehended the suspects less than a week after they allegedly broke into the home of Josef Nagy, the Hungarian commercial attaché, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted Gen. Seifollahi as saying that an Iranian man who worked as a housekeeper for one of Mr. Nagy's neighbours had masterminded the Sept. 27 robbery. He said Mr. Nagy's wife was killed because she had recognised the man, IRNA reported. It quoted Gen. Seifollahi as saying the housekeeper had later confessed, leading to the other arrests.

Egypt wants Arabs to use Suez Canal

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt on Monday urged Arab countries to ship their natural gas through the Suez Canal instead of making deals to transport it through Israel, its peace partner. Suez Canal Authority Chairman Mohamed Ezzet Adel told a group of Egyptian parliamentarians he had offered Qatar a reduction of 35 per cent in transit fees for 25 years if it used the waterway for shipping gas to Europe. "We are not against Qatar's shipping gas to Israel but we are against Israel being a centre for the distribution of Qatari gas to Europe. If this happens it will adversely affect the Suez Canal earnings," Mr. Adel said. "We are not against peace with Israel and we are not against the trade exchange with the Jewish state. But any relations with Israel should not be at the expense of the Suez Canal earnings," he told the parliamentarians.

Syrian with explosive held in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentine judge interrogated a Syrian on Sunday after police found in his house explosive and newspaper clippings about an anti-Jewish attack that killed nearly 100 people last July. The Syrian, identified as Ali Al Hasan, was arrested on Saturday during a raid in the Buenos Aires outskirts against people stealing electricity from the local utility, the state-run Telam news agency reported. It said police found four kilograms of TNT in Hasan's house and Sunday he was taken before a federal judge for interrogation. Police sources told Telam the suspect might also be interrogated in the coming days by Juan Jose Galeano, the magistrate investigating the July 18 blast that razed the building housing Argentina's two main Jewish groups. They also said Hasan had documents portraying him as a military attaché to the Iraqi embassy, but that the mission had denied having heard of him.

Iraqi fisherman killed by Kuwaiti guards

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Kuwaiti coastguards have shot dead an Iraqi fisherman in the northern Gulf, the daily Babel said on Monday. The incident happened on Saturday in the Fao region when a Kuwaiti patrol opened fire on two fishing boats, killing a crewman, the paper added. It was the first such incident to be announced by Baghdad since a build-up of tension between the two countries as Iraqi troops massed close to the demilitarised zone.

Yemeni socialists expel former leader

SANAA (AFP) — The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has expelled four of its former leaders, including Ali Salem Al Beidh, who headed breakaway southern forces in an abortive attempt to set up a separate state. In a statement released in Sanaa Sunday the YSP, formerly part of Yemen's ruling coalition, said Mr. Beidh was expelled because of his "mistaken policy" as YSP secretary-general. The other three leaders were named as: Deputy Secretary-General Saleh Mohammed and politburo members Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas and Salah Ubayd Ahmad. They were removed for having participated in the creation last month of a "national opposition front" to carry on the struggle against the Sanaa authorities. The YSP was absent from a new government announced by President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week. Mr. Beidh fled to neighbouring Oman before the end of the two-month civil war, and was followed by many other YSP leaders who sought exile in neighbouring countries after Mr. Saleh's forces captured the southern stronghold of Aden on July 7. The YSP elected a new general secretary, Ali Salah Obad, and a central committee in September, but then said it had "frozen" the membership of the exiled former leadership pending their possible return.

YMWA Marks 20 years of service to the disabled

Special to the
Jordan Times

THIS YEAR marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) Centre for Special Education, which was established in 1974.

The YMWA, a voluntary organisation under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, 20 years ago recognised the need for an institution which could provide education and training for students who are mildly to moderately handicapped. The YMWA built the Centre for Special Education in order to develop the educational potential of the handicapped student. Development of this vast potential permits the student to acquire a job and assume his or her role in society.

The centre had humble beginnings. It was originally housed in a residential basement in Amman and served only 18 mentally handicapped children. Currently based in the Bunayyat area, the centre embodied a pioneering effort in its field and has since become a model for similar institutions in the region.

Today, the YMWA centre is dedicated to the education and training of mentally handicapped children aged 3 to 18. The centre is a modern facility consisting of three main sections: 1) a pre-school section serving 40 students aged three to seven; 2) a school section serving approximately 80 students in their primary grade; and 3) a vocational training section serving 60 students age 16 and older.

The centre endeavours to serve a large number of children from a wide range of social and economic backgrounds. Approximately 65 per cent of the students cannot pay any tuition fees and none of the students pay the full cost. Therefore, the fees collected from the parents only cover 10 per cent of the annual running cost. Since the inception of the programme in 1974, 1,600 families have received services from the centre, including home training and visits, medical aid, consultation, and referrals. During the past 20 years, 667 children have been enrolled in the centre's education programme. Ninety children have actually graduated from the full programme and function as well-trained and productive citizens in society.

Despite its meager beginning, the YMWA soon realised that a larger facility would be needed to educate the increasing number of mentally handicapped children in Jordan. For this reason, the YMWA, under the directives of Princess Sarvath, commissioned the building of permanent facilities which were opened by His Majesty King Hussein in February 1981. Since its opening the centre has grown in many ways so as to better serve the needs of its students and the surrounding community.

In 1981, the centre received funds from the National Committee of the International Year of the Disabled to start the vocational section. The section was the first of its kind to combine training and production for mentally handicapped students in the area

of woodworking. Today, the vocational section has expanded to include weaving and ceramic sections.

The woodworking programme initially proved to be a success due to a fertile furniture market in Jordan. This immediate success inspired the YMWA to build a sheltered workshop in the Industrial estate of Sahab, which could provide more training and employment for the graduates of the centre and other centres. The YMWA sheltered workshop was opened in 1987. Today, it employs many graduates of the centre and has built a reputation for producing good quality furniture, which allows the workshop to compete on the open market for contracts and sales. Many of its products are displayed at the showroom located on Wadi Saqra Street.

The YMWA recognises that teacher training is an important, ongoing project which determines the success of the centre for Special Education. Since 1974, the Y.M.W.A. has promoted 12 long term, in-service training programmes to improve the quality of education and development within its centre. The centre has also conducted many short term courses. Experts have helped the teachers develop special education teaching skills, improve the curriculum and have shared their expertise to help build the vocational area within the centre.

Each year, the local teaching staff is also joined by local and expatriate volunteers who are able to serve in various departments within the centre. The volunteers are a valuable

asset to the centre in maintaining its operations. The Ambassador Foundation has sent volunteers from many countries since 1983. The Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA) has been working with the centre since 1990, improving its vocational and physical education areas.

The centre believes helping it should provide a varied and rich learning experience for its students. The curriculum is implemented in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere where strong emphasis is placed on acquiring practical skills. Social interaction and adaptation is also stressed in the curriculum. For this reason, each student enrolled in the programme is individually evaluated and a special learning regimen is charted for each child according to his or her needs. Of the 165 students currently enrolled, 77 per cent are classified as having mild to moderate level of handicap and 23 per cent are moderate and below. Children are divided into classes according to his or her ability and age. The children's progress is also charted at each level.

Parental involvement in the education of a child is crucial to the whole development of the person. With this in mind, the centre hosts an open day each Monday whereby parents are invited to visit the centre. Parents can use the time to observe their children in the classroom and consult with teachers on their child's progress. Parents of first year pre-school students and parents of children with severe behavioural

problems are asked to attend a minimum of one day per month.

To complement the open days, a Parent/Teacher's Association (P.T.A.) was established within the centre in 1990. The P.T.A. aims to provide informative programmes for the parents on issues which concern their children and avenues for fund-raising activities. Regular monthly lectures featuring guest speakers have now been established. Since the inception of the P.T.A., cooperation with the parents has improved.

The centre has sought to provide various services to the community throughout its 20 years of existence. From 1981-1983, the centre participated in a literacy programme for the Bunayyat community in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. For three years, beginning in 1981, a clinic was opened in the centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to serve the Bunayyat area. In 1982, 55 pre-school children from the Bunayyat area participated in a three-year experimental main-streaming programme held at the centre. The centre also makes the open day programme available for any parents in the community for counselling or referral services.

The centre has also taken an active role in changing legislation to improve conditions for the handicapped. In 1989, legislation of the Handicapped, NO. 31 was approved by Parliament. This item of legislation was included in the amended legislation, No. 12 for the year 1993.

In harmony with the YMWA's aim to increase

public awareness of the handicapped, radio and television programmes have been produced to rally support for the disabled. The director of the centre was appointed to represent voluntary societies on the National Council for the Handicapped. The director also recently participated in writing A Parents Guide to Dealing with Mentally Handicapped Children, under the supervision of UNICEF and the Queen Alia Fund and a Teacher's Guide to Special Education, published by the Queen Alia Fund.

Over the years, students of the centre have made significant achievements. The centre applauds its 1982 Crown Prince Award recipients and 1987 Special Olympic athletes. Since 1992, the centre has held an annual art exhibition to display the students' individual art-work in the areas of weaving, ceramics, visual arts and other crafts. There are a number of students who have won prizes for their work in annual competitions organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Shuman Foundation for creative work. The centre also holds the tradition of an annual sports festival for the handicapped. The last festival was held in June. It was inaugurated under the patronage of Princess Sarvath.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary, the Y.M.W.A. will hold an art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre Oct. 11-14.

It will also open its doors to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday, who can take a first hand look at the centre and its work.

Iraq announces border withdrawal

(Continued from page 1)
optimism," Mr. Ekeus wrote in his report.

Mr. Ekeus made no mention of the six months' probationary period which the monitoring system must be in place before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Iraq has complained vociferously recently that the United Nations has not formally agreed to lift the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus said that the entire monitoring network — including a coordination centre in Baghdad — would be completely operational by the end of the year.

The monitoring system is the first ever to be imposed on the loser of a war.

U.S. officials described Iraq's announced decision to pull back troops from the Kuwait border as a "good sign," but said they were waiting to see what happens on the ground.

"There's good news possible," said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, the official said it did not have independent confirmation of Iraq's claim that it was moving its troops back from the border.

President Clinton cancelled a political trip to New Jersey to deal with developments — including making phone calls to world leaders.

The official said that the United States was continuing with its troop deployment in the meantime.

Earlier, Defence Secretary William Perry would not rule out a pre-emptive strike on Baghdad.

In response to Iraq's announcement Monday, a senior Pentagon official said the administration was waiting to see direct evidence of a withdrawal before reacting.

At the White House, a senior administration official said, "We take this as possibly a good sign, but we want to see what happens on the ground."

"We will not be pinned down in that area indefinitely," Mr. Perry said in an interview with AP Network News on Monday. "We will want to resolve this crisis quickly."

The first major U.S. air and naval forces arrived in the Gulf region on Monday. Mr. Perry said it appeared more of Iraq's best forces were heading towards the Kuwaiti border area, bringing the estimated Iraqi troop total there to near 80,000.

U.S. officials have said the American ground, air and sea force could reach nearly 70,000 troops if all the troops now on alert are actually sent.

Asked in a series of interviews whether the United States would make a pre-emptive

strike at Iraq, Mr. Perry said he would not rule that in or out. He stressed, though, that Washington would not let the crisis drag on for long.

Kuwait has deployed its entire army of 18,000 men backed by dozens of tanks along the border to fight any Iraqi attack.

A spokesman from the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) meanwhile said more stateless Arabs or "bedouin" had poured into the border region and were less than a kilometre from the demilitarised zone.

UNIKOM said Sunday 6,000 tents had been pitched near the disputed port of Umm Qasr and their numbers were expected to swell to 20,000.

There has been no independent detail of how many troops were in the area and U.N. monitors on the border, which sits in a demilitarised zone totalling 15 kilometres, have reported not being able to see any Iraqi troops.

U.N. observers said the frontier itself was quiet on Monday despite the tensions triggered by Iraq's action — apparently the result of frustration over ever-growing hardship under the United Nations trade sanctions.

At the United Nations, Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun told reporters: "The troops are already on the move (back)."

But he added: "We reserve the right to move them any time in the future to wherever we want within Iraqi territory."

As 300 helmeted U.S. troops arrived in Kuwait, which has 10 per cent of the

world's crude oil reserves, Britain announced it was sending a battalion, another warship and six more Tornado fighter aircraft to Kuwait.

France, recently seen as one of the U.N. Security Council members more sympathetic to Iraq, also said it had ordered a warship to the Gulf region.

Saudi Arabia has already told the United States, which has said 200 American aircraft would soon be in the region, that its planes could use Saudi airfields.

In the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, despite fiery rhetoric from Iraq's official press, there were no signs of war preparations.

Schools were open and government employees went about their work as usual. There was no sign of any exodus to the countryside as occurred just before the start of the last war when hundreds of thousands of city dwellers moved out and the city was battered by alliance bombs and missiles.

Iraq on Monday repeated its insistence that Mr. Ekeus, monitoring Baghdad's compliance with the arms resolution linked to the ban on oil selling off, give a timetable for easing or lifting the embargo when he reports to the U.N. Security Council.

Kuwait said foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates would meet in Kuwait on Wednesday to discuss the crisis. They would also meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due to visit Kuwait that day to display diplomatic support.

World urges restraint in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)
wards pressure on oil prices would not last.

Qatar expressed hope there would be no escalation in the Gulf crisis and said it sympathised with the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani told a meeting with Arab diplomats in Doha that Qatar was concerned over what is going on on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, the official Qatari news agency QNA said.

"(Qatar was) keen for the situation to become quiet and that escalations would be avoided," QNA quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying.

A Qatari Foreign Ministry statement said on Sunday Iraq's ambassador in Doha told the Gulf state that Iraq was not making any threats against Kuwait.

Iran, saying the rising tension between Iraq and Kuwait served the interests of enemies of Islam, urged regional countries to join efforts to lift Gulf war economic sanctions against Baghdad.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi, in his first published remarks since the crisis sparked by Iraq's moving thousands of troops towards Kuwait, said rifts among Muslim countries resulting from the 1990 invasion of Kuwait helped Israel's push for peace with Arabs.

"Escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf would only serve the interests of enemies of Islam and regional people," Iran's IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

Mr. Mohammadi said Iraqi people suffered hardships as a result of the sanctions and a special effort had to be made to end their plight.

"Mohammad stressed that regional countries should take the lead in this connection," said IRNA.

Iraq's ambassador to Pakistan was called to the foreign office and told of Islamabad's concerns over the forward deployment of Iraqi troops near the Kuwait border, an official statement said.

While "acknowledging that positioning of Iraqi forces was a domestic matter," the diplomat was told the troop movement following an official Iraqi denunciation of Kuwaiti actions could be "interpreted as a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait."

The statement said Pakistan recognised the hardship faced by the Iraqi people and was also prepared, as a U.N. Security Council member, to consider the implementation of U.N. sanctions objective-

ly. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas expressed concern about the rising tension in the Middle East, which he said would not improve until problems between Iraq and Kuwait were settled.

"We have been watching with a feeling of concern that tension is rising again in the Middle East," Mr. Alatas told journalists, adding that "hopefully nothing will happen."

He also said that he was

commenting over the tense conditions in Iraq and Kuwait, and not Washington's decision to send troops there again.

"I think that as long as the Iraq-Kuwait problem is not yet comprehensively settled, this area will always become a centre of tension," Mr. Alatas said.

He cited the embargo imposed on Iraq and disarmament by Baghdad as some of the problems that still needed to be settled.

Hamas claims Jerusalem attack

(Continued from page 1)

fat, one of his most senior aides, Nabil Shaath, told Reuters Television: "I condemn the attack yesterday in Jerusalem that led to civilian people being killed and injured."

Dr. Shaath, in charge of economic planning in the Palestinian National Authority, said Arab attacks on Israelis, as well as those by Israelis on Arabs, "are a violation of the peace agreement."

"Only last night ... the enemies of peace once again showed their cowardly face," Mr. Christopher said.

The attack, one of the most serious in Jerusalem in years, exposed an embarrassing Israeli security lapse at the start of Mr. Christopher's renewed mission to break an Israel-Syrian deadlock over the occupied Golan Heights.

A Hamas official said that for the first time its military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, had used a non-Palestinian in a guerrilla operation inside Israel. It identified him as Issam Mhanna Ismail Al Johari, a 24-year-old Egyptian.

A copy of his Egyptian passport showed he entered Gaza in July on a one-month Israeli tourist visa.

Major-General Nasr Youssef, overall commander of Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, denied an Israeli radio report that Johari was a member of the force.

In a leaflet sent to news agencies Monday, Hamas said the attack came in revenge for the Oct. 8, 1990, shooting of 17 Palestinians by Israeli police outside Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque during clashes.

"Our bold military operations will not cease as long as there is an Israeli soldier left on our occupied land," the Hamas leaflet said.

The assailants opened fire at 11:30 p.m. Sunday in a crowded downtown pedestrian mall lined with restaurants. Witnesses said four

people than usual were sitting outside in the street because it had rained earlier in the evening.

Avi Zelba, a police spokesman, said that the two Palestinians fired hundreds of bullets in the attack, killing an Israeli woman soldier and an Israeli Arab and wounding 13 others, five of them seriously.

Mr. Christopher said a U.S. diplomat was among the wounded on the narrow street lined with outdoor cafes, pubs and boutiques frequented by Israelis and tourists. He described the wounds as "light."

The man was an employee of the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem and was taken to a hospital for treatment of shrapnel wounds in the back, police said. Also among the injured was an 18-year-old American woman who was treated for shock.

The body of one attacker was wedged behind a large jar-shaped flower pot that was smeared with blood. The other lay sprawled on the stone paved street of the pedestrian mall, blood streaming into a gutter. The bodies had been hit in the face and chest by multiple rounds.

Angry Israelis shouted "Death to the Arabs" as police led away two Palestinians from the scene, their arms raised over their heads. A crowd of about 300 people surrounded the two men and a group of orthodox Jews in black coats and hats beat on the body with their fists before police could get the detainees a van.

Police said seven grenades were found at the scene. He said the attackers were in their 20s and had been let off from a car and began running in the restaurant district, firing as they ran.

The Hamas leaflet identified the Palestinian assailant as Hassan Abbas from the Gaza Strip.

World Bank urges faster privatisation for Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egypt needs to speed up its privatisation programme and should consider selling off infrastructure to generate revenue and create new jobs, the World Bank said.

"Egypt would do well by going further and faster," John Nellis, senior manager at the World Bank's privatisation unit, told a conference of private sector development in Egypt.

"Gradualism is very tempting but is not the right tactic in Egypt's circumstances. The fear of unemployment and the need to generate revenue are good arguments for speed," he said.

The two-day conference, which opened Sunday, brought together government officials, businessmen and international advisers to try to revitalise Egypt's private sector, still sluggish after three years of economic reforms.

In 1991, the Egyptian government began an ambitious

programme to sell off 314 public sector companies, many of which are in debt and need restructuring.

Since then, only three companies have been sold prompting many investors and advisors to accuse the Egyptian government of dragging its feet in dismantling its huge public sector established in the 1960s by President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Mr. Nellis also told conference delegates, who included Atef Obeid, Egypt's minister in charge of privatisation, that the government must target industries like telecommunications for privatisation.

The 314 public sector companies are marked for privatisation as "soft" industries, such as hotels and cinema productions, and the government has so far refused to consider selling off larger public-sector controlled economic concerns such as the electricity, oil, gas and water industries.

But in an opening speech

to the conference, Prime Minister Atef Sedki indicated that may change.

"The government will continue to invest in infrastructure in electricity, transportation, water, or health. It is now time to encourage private investments in this sector provided they do not lead to monopolies," he said in a speech delivered on his behalf by Industry and Mineral Wealth Minister Ibrahim Fawzy.

"The Egyptian government has not gone too fast so as not to stumble, and also not too slow... we have taken away constraints on all investments except military or environmentally harmful investment," Dr. Sedki said.

A World Bank report prepared for the conference said Egypt would have to sell or close down on average one company per week by the year 2000 if it is to complete the privatisation of all its public enterprises.

800 million people without access to food, FAO director-general says

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AFP) — About 800 million people across the world are without access to adequate food supplies, an official of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) said here Monday.

Addressing a ministerial meeting on food and agriculture of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf warned of the destabilising effect of world hunger.

"Food shortages are often a major cause of political and social unrest," Mr. Diouf, a former Senegalese ambassador to the United Nations, said.

He said people debilitated by hunger would not be greatly concerned with democ-

cracy, human rights, or protection of the environment. "Increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs can lead to rioting and the search for food had provoked mass migrations within and across borders on numerous occasions," he said.

The number of those without adequate food was equal to 20 per cent of the total population of developing countries and 37 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa, he added.

He said that 192 million of that number were children under five years of age.

"We are likely to see developing countries as a whole, now net agriculture exporters, become net impor-

ters," Mr. Diouf said. He said the situation was alarming given the balance of payment difficulties and unfavourable economic prospects of developing countries, particularly those of sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Diouf also said rapid urbanisation and cross-border migration from poorer to richer countries were compounding the problem.

"To cope with the consequences... massive investment in the low income food-deficit countries is needed to increase agricultural productivity and production," Mr. Diouf said.

But he also said that bi-lateral and multilateral assistance declined from \$12 bil-

lion in 1980 to \$10 billion in 1990. As a result, the FAO would aim to foster greater self-reliance at country level, Mr. Diouf said.

He announced he was proposing a World Food Summit, expected to be held in the first quarter of 1996, to raise political awareness at the highest level.

The summit would focus on formulating new strategies through consultation with governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the United Nations, he said.

A draft document, to be prepared at a ministerial meeting in Quebec in October next year, would be submitted to the summit.

Oil prices firms as traders eye Gulf tension

LONDON (R) — Oil prices gained some 30 cents a barrel Monday as international markets reacted to the buildup of Iraqi troops along the border with Kuwait.

At midday, world benchmark Brent Blend crude stood 31 cents higher on futures markets at \$17.23 a barrel for November delivery, scarcely moved from a firm opening at \$17.25.

Initial reports on Iraqi troop movements on Friday propelled Brent prices up to a high of \$17.32, but profit-taking ahead of the weekend wiped out most of those gains late Friday.

Brokers noted prices were heading upwards before news of Iraq's latest move broke. "The market's pretty relaxed this morning," said one broker. "The (Iraqi) news would have had more impact if it had been in a bearish market," he said.

Others noted that although the market's immediate reaction was bullish, prices were unlikely to gain any further upward impetus unless Kuwaiti oil supplies came under threat.

"There's been no threat to Kuwaiti or Saudi oil supplies so far and we've already seen what the allied forces can do back in 1990 when they faced a much stronger force," said one market analyst.

Doleful story: Europe tightening up on rules for unemployment benefits

PARIS (AFP) — The spiralling cost of dole payments is forcing most European countries to tighten rules on who is entitled to unemployment benefits, according to a comparative study of the French benefits system (UNIDIC).

With the lengthening of both dole queues and time spent out of work, Europe is tightening the rules and slowly introducing a new concept that of "reasonable" jobs, which the unemployed has to accept on pains of losing his benefits, according to UNIDIC specialists.

The specialists point to the "danger" this represents, at a time of recession, for an unemployed person having to accept "a less well paid and less qualified job than previously enjoyed, as is the case in Germany and in The Netherlands."

Definitions of "reasonable" jobs are fairly close from one country to another, but rules enforcing their acceptance are increasingly stringent, according to a study which looked at Germany, Belgium, France, The

Netherlands, Britain and Sweden.

The work offered must be "likely to be accepted" but the job-seeker, that is to say, in line with his aspirations, his qualifications and the economic environment.

In Germany, for example, a job-seeker need only be recognised "physically and mentally fit" to fill a job. He can refuse a first offer, but will have to accept the second, even if this is less rewarding.

As to wages, they must be "greater than or equal to unemployment benefits received" in most of the countries looked at.

The benefits vary from between 40 and 65 per cent of previous wages, with Italy at the lower end of the scale, the unemployed getting 20 per cent, and Denmark at the higher end — where they get 90 per cent.

In France, the unemployed can refuse to take a job when its wage is 20 to 30 per cent less than that previously paid, but this only for the first few months out of work.

In the Netherlands, as in Britain, the unemployed must accept a job offer after six months on the dole.

But the British unemployed can refuse if the job offered threatens health or could result in "physical or mental stress."

With the exception of Belgium, where no time limit applies to unemployment benefits, most other countries have chosen to limit the period over which benefits can be paid. This depends on the age of the unemployed and how long he worked previously.

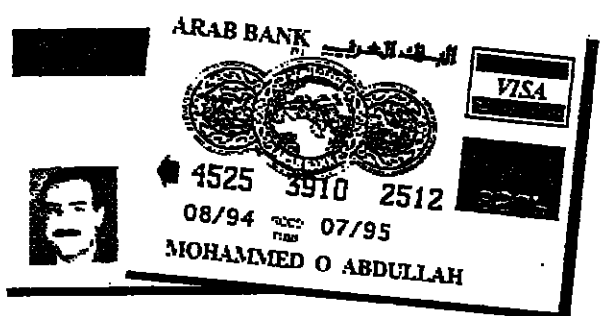
Rouble cracks 3,000 barrier against dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble plunged through the psychological barrier of 3,000 to the dollar Monday and banks quoted it as low as 3,270 on the interbank market. Dealers said the rouble would fall further due to market speculation and extra roubles coming from other markets.

"The rouble will fall more than in the worst times last year. Speculation is now backed by the very special relationships between the central bank and special exporters, who are interested in a lower rouble," said a Tokobank dealer.

Earlier the rouble fell six per cent on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange in the absence of central bank intervention to a record low 3,081 to the dollar, breaking through the 3,000 level planned by the government for the end of the year.

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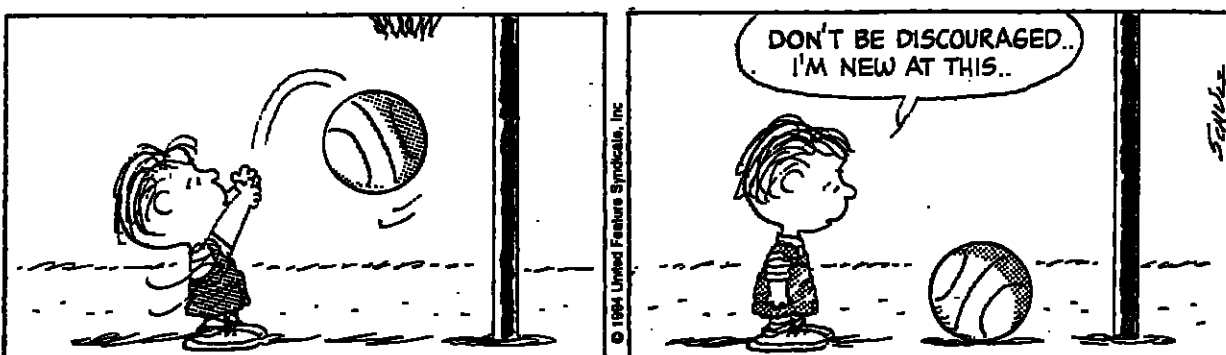
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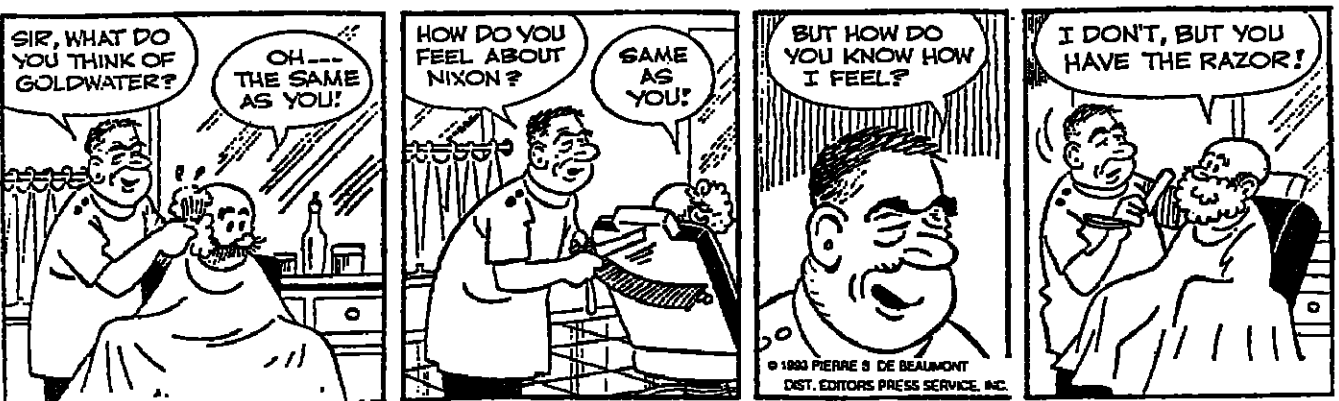
Peanuts



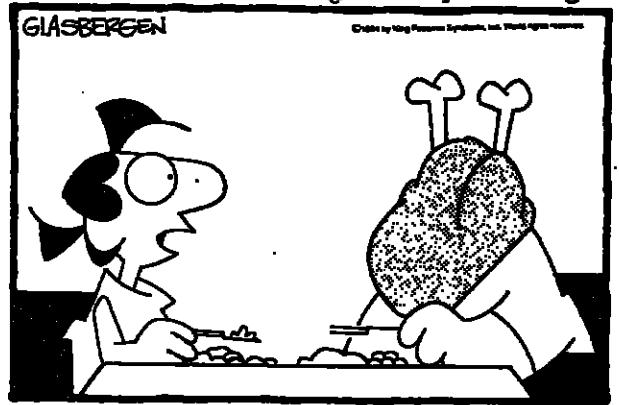
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

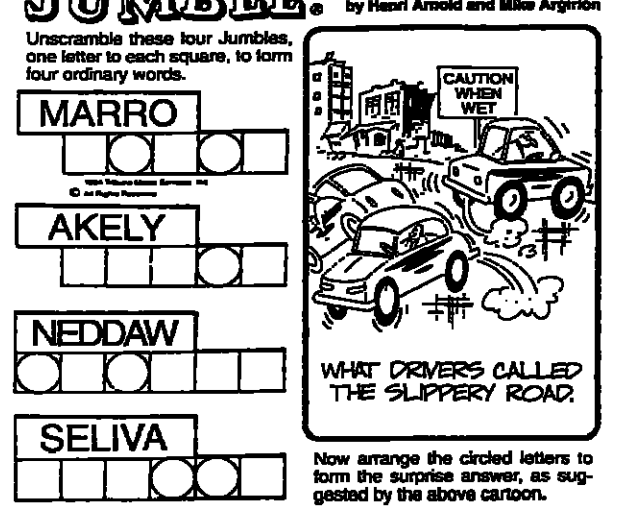


THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



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Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Quiet activity is your best mode of procedure now as the strongest mid-day aspect is the Moon square the Sun creating tensions and conflicts a struggle for fulfillment. Keep with those necessary tasks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Going after personal desires in a positive way is wise and you find friends are also helpful. Be more supportive of a bigwig who can be helpful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) See experts who can aid you in some unusual enterprise you are currently working on. Use care in motion to prevent trouble on the highway.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Friends can be amenable to your suggestions and helpful today. Analyse your personal aims and how you can be very successful in life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try a new tack where your business affairs are concerned and you can make greater progress. Use care with money at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact those who can appreciate your creative ideas and make the most of them. Avoid overplaying your hand in the game of business.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Before you ask a favour of a person of different background to yours, think it over well. Be aware of loved one's needs and desires.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you want to join forces with a charming partner, make sure you do not give up too much of your own holdings or you could lose control.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more cooperative with fellow associates and you can gain their aid for some new venture you want to put in motion for your success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It is natural that you want to have a good time, so contact the right playmates and have fun during the evening with friends.

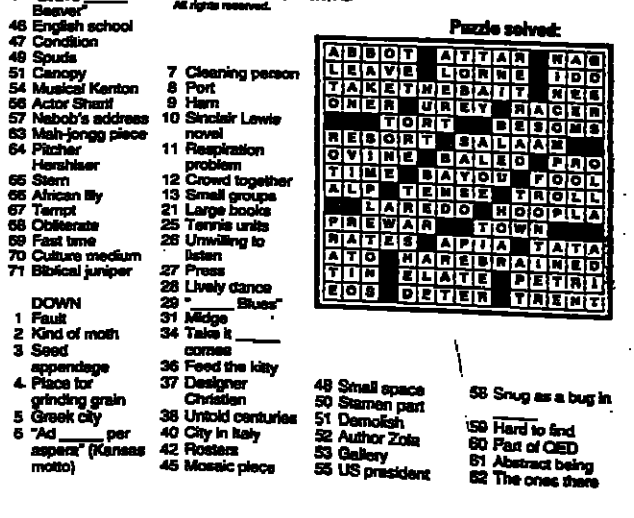
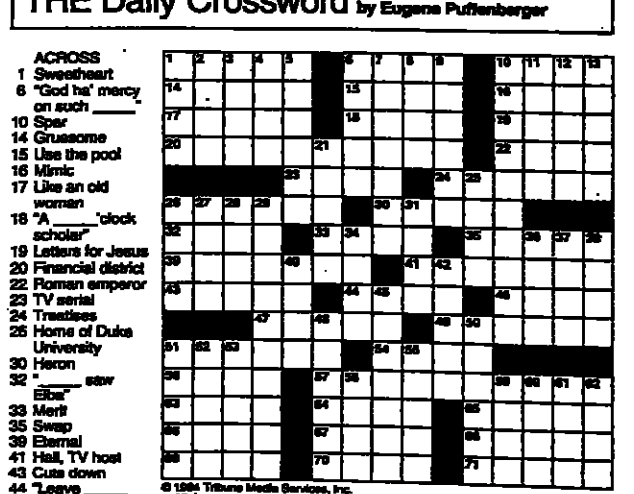
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Some new idea can bring fine results today if you get it in motion early without any delay. Extend invitations to friends for this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to make improvements which are needed, whether at home or at business. A pat on the back should be given to fellow associates.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Yesterday's benefit can continue today from monetary plans you made not long ago. Plan for even greater progress on a new project.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger



Business

Financial Markets

Jordan Times

Valentine's Day

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/10/94	Singapore Close 10/10/94
Sterling Pound	1.5865	1.5828**
Deutsche Mark	1.5470	1.5508
Swiss Franc	1.2804	1.2835**
French Franc	5.2855	5.2960**
Japanese Yen	100.61	100.59
European Currency Unit	1.2345	1.2328**

* 100 Per 100
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates
Date: 10/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.37	5.56	5.93
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.75	6.18	6.18
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.68	4.00	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.46	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.90	6.18	6.75

Interbank bid rates for domestic currency U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 10/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.1048	1.1103
Deutsche Mark	0.4500	0.4523
Swiss Franc	0.5437	0.5464
French Franc	0.1317	0.1324
Japanese Yen	0.6931	0.6966
Dutch Guilder	0.4020	0.4040
Swedish Krona	0.0442	0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	0.0442	0.0444

* Per 100

Other Currencies
Date: 10/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrian Dinar	1.8550	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.041115	0.043075
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1875
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1904	0.1925
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7980	1.8180
UAE Dirham	0.1893	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.2635	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3925	1.5050

Per 100

Lufthansa, Thai Airways sign strategic 'code-sharing' alliance

FRANKFURT (R) — German national airline Lufthansa and Thai Airways International created the largest international network of air services Monday when they signed a strategic "code-sharing" alliance.

The move to share flight codes and link route networks on booking systems connects the burgeoning economies of South East Asia with Europe and the lucrative North America market via Lufthansa's existing deal with U.S. carrier United Airlines.

"Thai Airways International becomes an important cornerstone of a triad of airlines... reflecting the economic triad of America, Europe and Asia," Deutsche Lufthansa A.G. Chairman Juergen Weber told a televised news conference in Bangkok.

Code-sharing allows a passenger to buy a ticket with one airline in one country for

travel on both the issuing airline and on planes of its partner airline on connecting flights.

"Our network will link... Chicago, Washington, Frankfurt, Munich, Bangkok, Tokyo and San Francisco," Mr. Weber said. "The objective of our alliance is to optimise the route structure of the alliance partners into one single seamless network."

The deal embraces both passenger and cargo code-sharing, which will start up next summer.

Thai and Lufthansa plan to develop Bangkok into the major cargo hub in the Asian-Pacific region and Lufthansa cargo head Wilhelm Althen said the South East Asian cargo market would double in the next two or three years.

The German airline's weekly passenger flights to Thailand will increase to 20 in

a year's time from 15 now. The three airlines' "frequency flyer" programmes, which industry analysts call the key factor in attracting high-yield passengers, will be pooled from early next year and airport lounge facilities will be shared.

Lufthansa's tie-up with United Airlines saw passenger numbers rise by a combined 100,000 by August since the deal came into force on June 1.

Mr. Weber and Thai Airways President Thamnoon Wanglee were reticent about

prospects of investing in each other's companies. Mr. Weber said the two airlines would focus on making the alliance work and discuss a possible equity swap further down the road.

Recently privatised Lufthansa has generally fought shy of what Mr. Weber calls expensive holdings and has forged strategic cooperation deals from the U.S. market to Russia and India.

After five loss-making years, it expects a profit and dividend payout this year.

Survey shows job ads rising in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) — Job vacancies in Australia jumped by 48 per cent in the year to September, according to a survey released Monday, confirming other recent indicators of a surging economy here.

The ANZ Banking Group's job advertisement series rose 2.4 per cent in trend terms in September, following a 2.6 per cent rise in August. Seasonally adjusted, the rise stood at four per cent for September after a one per cent fall in August.

"The number of job ads was 48 per cent higher in September than a year earlier," the bank said in a statement.

The survey follows Sunday's release of another poll by the Australian Chamber of Manufactures (ACM) which showed manufacturing firms heading for their best Christmas quarter for at least five years, with solid growth in production and sales.

The ACM survey found that 90 per cent of companies expected to maintain or increase production and sales, creating thousands of new jobs in the lead-up to the Christmas season.

ANZ economist Graham Hodges said Monday that

other labour market indicators — such as surveys of business expectations and the increase in overtime hours worked — also showed signs of continual employment growth.

"The number of job ads are increasing at a trend rate of 2.5 to three per cent per month, pointing to further employment growth over the remainder of 1994," Mr. Hodges added.

The current rate of increase in the job ad series was consistent with annual employment growth of at least three per cent — the government's budget forecast for 1994/95.

"The unemployment rate is likely to be well under the budget forecast of 9.5 per cent by June 1995. On current trends, the unemployment rate is likely to fall to around 8.75 per cent by mid-1995," he said.

All states except the island state of Tasmania recorded an increase in the trend measure of job advertisements.

The ANZ survey is further strong evidence of an increasingly buoyant economy, although recent data indicated stronger consumption

Dealing remains normal at Arab Gulf bourses

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf stock markets are watching Iraqi military movements near the Kuwaiti border but none of them has been seriously affected by the reported build-up, dealers said Monday.

Kuwait's market lost 11 points on news of Iraqi troop reinforcements arriving near the border but regained most of them on Sunday after the United States and other Western powers began rushing forces to fend off a repetition of the August 1990 invasion.

In the Saudi market speculation triggered by Baghdad's moves depressed the prices of most shares by more than \$1 on Saturday but the market regained its stability on news of Western assurances.

"Dealing is back to normal now since the situation in the northern Gulf has become clearer and counter-measures have been adopted by the United States and other Western powers," said Inzar Ahmad, deputy chairman of the Saudi Consultancy Centre for Financing and Investment, which is directly involved in the Saudi market.

Mr. Ahmad said the share index was expected to be close to its level of 145.85 points on Thursday.

"Of course investors are watching developments but there is no panic and current indications show there is no reason for fear or unusual activity in the market," he added.

The Saudi stock market is the biggest in the Middle East, accounting for nearly 65 per cent of the total market capitalisation in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It stood at \$51 billion at the end of 1993, its highest level since dealing began in the kingdom three decades ago.

Saudi Arabia does not have an official floor for religious reasons, but dealing is

conducted through the most sophisticated banking network in the Gulf.

Turnover peaked at \$4.7 billion in 1993 — the highest in the region.

Kuwait has the second biggest market turnover in the Gulf, but the emirate came top before its exchange was crippled by the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Its index, which tracks 47 local banks and companies, dropped by 11 points on Saturday, a day after reports of an Iraqi troop build-up. But it regained eight points to close at 964 points on Sunday, according to its official bulletin.

"The market declined slightly on Saturday due to the political developments but most share prices have improved because statements of support by brotherly and friendly countries boosted confidence in the market," director of the Kuwaiti bourse Hisham Al Otaibi told the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Despite repeated Iraqi threats, Kuwait's exchange has remained active this year due to an economic recovery spurred by massive government investment. Turnover stood at 149 million dinars (\$506 million) in the first quarter and 181 million dinars (\$615 million) in the second quarter.

The current situation is in sharp contrast with that prevailing during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, when most regional markets were almost paralysed and share prices plunged to record lows.

Dealers attributed the new situation to the fact that Iraq had been severely weakened by the Gulf war and the Western allies had proven their credibility in defending the region following their eviction of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has the second biggest Gulf market in terms of capitalisation, activity remained normal this week but the market was cautious.

"The reports about the Iraqi troop mobilisations near the Kuwaiti border have not affected the UAE market in a big way," said Ziad Dabbas, sharedealing director at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD).

"The psychological impact is still limited. We have not noticed any unusual sale offers as all of them were for economic rather than political reasons. The market, however, is watching the developments in the northern Gulf," he added.

He said the stock index, set up by NBAD in 1989 with a base of 1,000 points, fell by only two points to 1,961.61 on Sunday.

Another UAE stockbroker, Zuhair Kaswani, said daily information from the markets in Oman, Bahrain and Qatar showed prices of several had slightly fallen but activity was generally normal.

Grand Met restructures away from pet food

LONDON (AFP) — The British food and drink giant Grand Metropolitan (G.M.) is to restructure its food and drinks business and sell its Alpo pet food business in the U.S. to a unit of Nestle for \$510 million, G.M. has said.

In a statement announcing the two moves, G.M. said it would take a charge of £280 million (\$437 million) against year-to-September results for the restructuring which would focus on the worldwide drinks business, International Distillers and Vintners (IDV), and its European food operations.

"These actions are the latest steps in Grand Met's strategy of upgrading its asset base whilst investing in its branded consumer food and drinks businesses," the statement said.

G.M. said that the Alpo sale, part of its U.S. Pillsbury division, would result in a pre-tax exceptional profit of just over £200 million in the year to September 1995 results. This was after a deduction of £30 million of goodwill previously written off on acquisition.

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ASIAN GAMES

China piles up gold in rowing, canoeing, walking

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Chinese walked, rowed and paddled their way to a big haul of games gold medals Monday, and gained another from a rare letdown by South Korea's world-class women archers.

The Koreans stormed back in the men's team archery event, beating Japan in the final with a world record 259 to 236. The Japanese had set the former mark of 254 in July.

The Korean women lost 237-236 to Indonesia in the women's archery semifinal, but bounced back to beat Taiwan for the bronze 248-226. The 248 was a games record. China took the final 240-231 from the Indonesians.

On the first rainy day in the games' eighth full day of competition, only tennis matches were halted while other events went on as scheduled.

China piled up 19 gold medals for the day, bringing its total to 92 — approaching the goal of 100 it had set before the games, which end Sunday.

South Korea was far behind in second with 33, including two Monday. Japan captured four golds, but still were one behind the archery Koreans' total. Kazakhstan

had 13 and Iran eight, including six in wrestling.

In total medals, China had 170 to 127 for Japan, 97 for South Korea and 43 for Kazakhstan.

The Chinese missed out on only one of the day's four track and field golds — in the men's 10,000 metres — which they didn't enter.

Japan's Toshinari Takaoka won that race in a games record 28 minutes, 15.48 seconds, pulling away in the final stretch from teammate Jun Hiratsuka, who took the silver in 28:18.10. Takaoka broke the games record by 11.26 seconds.

The Chinese split canoeing golds with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with each nation taking two, but captured 11 of the 12 rowing events. Japan again was the spoiler, winning the men's lightweight double sculls race. China won silver in that race.

Uzbekistan's Ivan Kireev came out of the canoeing competition with three gold medals, in the 500- and 1,000-metre singles canoe races and the four-man kayak event.

In track and field, China placed 1-2 in both the men's 20-kilometre walk and the women's 10-kilometre event, setting the best times ever in an Asian Games although no formal records are kept be-

cause courses vary widely.

Chen Shaoguo was the men's winner in one hour, 21 minutes, 15 seconds, with teammate Bi Lingtan, ranked no. 1 in the world, taking the silver medal in 1:21:56.

World champion Gao Hongmiao walked 44 minutes, 11 seconds for her gold medal. Teammate Gu Yan was second in 44:18.

In the hammer throw, Bi Zhong broke his own games record of 71.30 metres with a winning heave of 72.24. Japan's veteran Koji Murofushi took silver with 67.48 and Pakistan won its first medal of these games when Aqarab Abbas took bronze with 66.70.

China's formidable women's team had started track competition Sunday with a victory in the marathon. The Chinese women hold all but one Asian record in track and field, and have three world records.

Their strength is expected to help bring China the lion's share of the 43 gold medals at stake in track and field. Chinese women already had gone 15-for-15 in the swimming pool.

South Korean weightlifter Kim Tae-Hyun helped his nation stay just ahead of Japan when he won the over 108-

kilogramme division weightlifting in the day's last event. He and silver medalist Wei Tiehan of China both lifted a total of 415 kilogrammes, but Kim placed ahead because of his lighter body weight.

At 108 kilogrammes, China's Cui Wenhua won with 392.5. Kuwait's Fehaid Aldeehani

won the men's double trap shooting title with a total of 187, including a world record 145 for the first 150 targets. American Joshua Lakatos set the old record of 143 in 1993. Wang Yujin of China won the women's event with 148, including a world record 112 for the first 120 targets. American F. Strodman set the old record of 107 in June.

MEDAL STANDINGS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
China	92	60	18
Korea	33	23	41
Japan	32	41	54
Kazakhstan	13	12	18
Taiwan	8	7	5
Uzbekistan	3	6	12
Kuwait	3	7	4
Syria	2	3	0
Malaysia	2	1	10
Indonesia	1	11	4
Mongolia	1	3	1
Vietnam	1	2	0
S. Arabia	1	1	4
India	1	1	4
Thailand	0	5	4
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	4
Hong Kong	0	2	3
Jordan	0	2	2
Philippines	0	2	2
UAE	0	2	2
Brunei	0	1	3
Nepal	0	0	2
Singapore	0	0	2
Burma	0	0	1
Macao	0	0	1
Pakistan	0	0	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1

Nagano on course for friendly games

HIROSHIMA (R) — The Hiroshima Asian Games is coming under some of the closest scrutiny from Japanese sports officials organising the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano.

Their verdict so far is that the model for a successful games was staged thousands of miles away earlier this year at the hugely successful Lillehammer Winter Olympics in Norway.

"They were very friendly and we want to do the same thing," Yoshihiro Yamada said.

Yamada is leading a delegation in Hiroshima to check on the organisation of the Asian Games and promote the 18th Winter Games.

"Everything is on schedule," Yamada said. "The ski jump is already in place and next spring the ice hockey facility will be completed."

Lillehammer's games in February were considered a major success, both athleti-

cally and logistically, with the Norwegians praised for creating a low-key, friendly atmosphere.

Yamada said Nagano, with its population of 350,000, aims to do the same.

"In Nagano, they are very supportive of the Olympics and more than 20,000 people have registered to volunteer," Yamada said.

Nagano is in an area called the Japanese Alps and is 90 minutes west of Tokyo by bullet train.

It will be the southernmost site ever for a Winter Games. There will be six different venues, all within one hour of the centre of Nagano, Yamada said.

The organising committee is also promoting the games as environmentally friendly and even added another venue when nests of goshawks and other birds were found at the proposed biathlon site.

To further promote the en-

vironment, four dog-sled teams set out from Lillehammer in February and will be making one of the longest Arctic treks ever attempted, travelling 16,000 kilometres (9,950) to carry an environmental message to the mayor of Nagano.

The six crew members will brave temperatures of as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

There will be trial runs for the facilities when Nagano hosts the world figure skating and world short-course speed skating championships in the year before the games, Yamada said.

Like the facilities, the budget for the games is also being revised.

"Before we were awarded the games we had a budget of 76 billion yen (\$760 million)," Yamada said. "Now we have thought it over and are now calculating that it will be a little higher," Yamada said.

Security increased at athletes village

HIROSHIMA (R) — There has been so much shop lifting from the gift shop in the Asian Games athletes village here that security guards have been forced to put on their uniforms to show a greater presence. Japanese newspapers reported Sunday.

They said the guards were in plainclothes but the policy was changed because of a boom in thefts.

Some of the souvenir shirts can cost up to 6,500 yen (\$65), which is more than the monthly salary in many of the countries competing in the games.

The village is more than one hour from the city centre and the distance and cost, a taxi can cost \$40, has left some city merchants complaining because an expected shopping boom hasn't happened.

Bangkok games soccer tourney to be cut back

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — A qualifying tournament will be introduced for the next Asian Games in Bangkok to cut the number of teams of 16. Asian Football Confederation secretary general Peter Velappan announced Monday.

There are 18 teams in Hiroshima, but the tourna-

ment has been hit by last-minute withdrawals and Velappan admitted it has been "unwieldy" with "matches too close together for this level of football."

"In our report to the Olympic Council of Asia after the games, we will recommend a 16 team tournament for Bangkok," he added.



Japan's Toshinari Takaoka celebrates as he crosses the line to win the gold medal with a time of 28mins 15.48secs setting a new Asian Games record Monday during the men's

10,000m in the Big Arch stadium. Compatriot Jun Hiratsuka took the silver, Saudi Arabia's Alyan Qahtani took the bronze (AFP photo)

S. Korea prepares for Olympic taekwondo glory

HIROSHIMA (R) — South Korea, celebrating the acceptance of taekwondo as an official Olympic sport, reaped a maximum tally of Asian Games golds in its national martial art when the competition concluded here Sunday.

With nations restricted to entering no more than four of the eight weight classes, South Korea's haul of four golds over two days of competition was the best they could expect.

Their medals tally came from Kim Hyun-Yong in featherweight, Chin Seung-Tae in flyweight, Jung Kwang-Chae in welterweight, and Kim Je-Gyoung in heavyweight.

The other weight classes would probably have gone South Korea's way if the Japanese organisers, bidding to cut down South Korea's chances of taking overall second place at the games, had not imposed the entrance restrictions.

Kuwait's Hameed Hasan took gold in the middleweight division, with Quang Ja Trnn of Vietnam taking the bantamweight, Chang Jong-San lifting the finweight title and Fariborz

Askari of Iran winning the lightweight.

South Korea, who was placed overall sixth at the Barcelona Olympics, hopes that the inclusion of taekwondo, a free-fighting combat sport using bare hands and feet to repel an opponent, will raise its position even further at the 2000 Sydney Games, when taekwondo will take full medal status.

The number of weight classes for Olympic competition has yet to be decided but the lion's share is sure to be won by Koreans. Whether they come from North or South of the cold war border remains a moot point.

The 103rd session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), meeting last month in Paris, adopted taekwondo to the lists of official Olympic sports, a decision which made her "the news in South Korea."

"The admission of taekwondo into the 2000 Sydney Games is the most outstanding achievement in the history of Korean sports," said one Seoul newspaper.

"The entry of taekwondo into the Olympics also means increased prestige for the nation," said another.

Rival Asian nations are not ecstatic about taekwondo's inclusion on the Olympic roster.

South Korean sports officials say China and Japan, making separate Olympic bids for their own martial arts of wushu and karate, have made desperate efforts to stymie the South Koreans.

Even North Korea, resenting the international adoption of the South's Rules of the sport, has tried to stop the Olympic bids.

North Korea, with the help of a group allied to its version of the sport, the Vienna-based International Taekwondo Federation, has also been on the warpath.

"The WTF is based in South Korea and run by the government," said ITF under Secretary-General Tom McCallum.

But South Korea has been aided by the high status of Kim Un-Yong, president of the World Taekwondo Federation, one of the IOC's vice-presidents.

Kim is one of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch's closest henchmen and many tip Kim to be the next president when Samaranch eventually steps down.

Sri Lankan athlete does a runner

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Sri Lanka's top middle distance runner Ranjit Subasinghe has gone missing with three cyclists from the delegation. Asian Games organising committee officials said Monday.

Subasinghe, 27, left the Games village Sunday night and did not turn up for Monday's 800 metres heats. The Sri Lankan won a gold medal in the event in the South East Asian Games last year.

Subasinghe is a police in-

spector and the Sri Lanka chief de mission is one of his superiors. The officials said the Sri Lankan delegation had expressed confidence that the athletes would turn up again.

But the Japanese organisers and immigration officials said they believe the Sri Lankans were the first cast of legitimate Asian Games competitors trying to immigrate illegally.

Police have reported several

attempts to sneak into Japan by phoney competitors and spectators. In the latest, they deported 16 people who arrived at Hiroshima airport with fake Greek passports and unable to speak Greek.

Fifth-five Filipinos tried last week and their leader was arrested after vowing to make a new attempt. Police told Sunday how 15 Burmese nationals with false visas, who said they wanted to see their country's soccer team at

the games, were refused entry.

The 14 men and two women claiming to be Greeks came to Hiroshima on an Asian airline flight from Singapore via Seoul.

Immigration officials first thought it strange that Greeks should want to see the Asian Games. They said their suspicions strengthened when none of the group, aged in their 20s and 30s, could speak Greek.

Their leader was said to

have told investigators in English: "We can't speak Greek but we could speak Turkish if you want."

Further inquiries found their passports were fake and the group was deported back to Seoul on a flight Sunday.

The immigration department stepped up its state of alert after a group of Filipinos, wearing official uniforms, tried to get into Japan pretending to be the Philippines volleyball team.

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♦ 8 7
♣ K 6

EAST
♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ J 10 9 8 7

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K J 4
♦ K J 7 6 5 2
♣ A Q 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 3♣ 3NT Pass
4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
6♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
Obviously, 12 tricks are a cinch at a diamond contract if the king of

clubs is with East. However, before committing yourself to the finesse, what other chance do you have?

North-South conducted an excellent auction to reach the diamond slam despite vigorous interference. By running from three no trump to four diamonds South showed an unbalanced hand. North cue-bid four hearts to show first-round control and a good diamond fit and South needed no further encouragement.

West led the four of diamonds. Have you spotted all the additional combinations, other than the finesse, that will enable you to land the contract?

First, there's the possibility East started with a doubleton ace of spades and that card can be ruffed out. Secondly, West can be end-played if that defender holds the ace of spades. And lastly, if East has the ace of spades the contract is still not without play.

Lecturer won the passive trump lead on the board and ruffed a spade. The queen of hearts provided the entry for another spade ruff, but the ace did not appear. So declarer cashed the remaining high hearts, ending on the table and led the king of spades. When East did not produce the ace, declarer simply discarded a club from hand.

In with the ace of spades, West had a choice of ways to commit suicide. A major-suit return would allow declarer to ruff on the table and discard the queen of clubs from hand and a club would be into South's major tenace.

What if East had produced the ace of spades on the third round? Ruff, cash the ace of clubs and cross to the board with a trump to lead a club. If East plays low, rise with the queen. That wins if East has the king and endplays West if the defender started with a doubleton king.

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Andretti and Mansell say goodbye to Indy-car racing

MONTREY, Calif. (AP) — On a day when Mario Andretti and Nigel Mansell bid farewell to Indy-car racing, Paul Tracy scored a convincing victory Sunday in the season-ending Bank of America 300.

Andretti, driving in his 40th and last Indy-car race at age 54, had a frustrating day, damaging his car in a first-lap accident and winding up 18th after his engine blew just three laps from the end. He wound up watching from the pits as Tracy took the checkered flag.

"I'm just going to have to find out if there is life after driving after all," said Andretti, the 1978 Formula One world champion. "And I'm sure there is."

Mansell, the former Formula One champion, departing after two seasons on the Indy-car circuit, stayed with the leaders throughout the 84-lap race on the 2.214-mile (3.56-kilometre), 11-turn Laguna Seca raceway road circuit. The 1993 Indy-car PPG Cup champion wound up a lap down in eighth.

The Briton will return to Formula One for the final three races of this season,

leaving immediately after the race to begin reading himself to run in the Grand Prix of Europe next Sunday at Jerez, Spain.

Tracy was unbeatable in earning his second straight victory at Laguna, third of the season and the eighth of his budding Indy-car career.

Only Penske teammate Al Unser Jr., who clinched the series title with two races remaining in the season, appeared to have even a remote chance of catching Tracy, but Unser's transmission gave out on the 75th lap.

Tracy, the record-setting pole-winner, cruised to a 21.33-second victory over runner-up Raul Boesel of Brazil. Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, the rookie who started alongside Tracy on the front row, wound up third, followed by Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi, the third Penske driver, Teo Fabi of Italy, Dutchman Arie Luyendyk and Mexican native Adrian Fernandez, the only other competitors on the lead lap.

Andretti was feted throughout the weekend and got a special sendoff Sunday,

with wife Dee Ann and twin brother Aldo giving him the singular command: "Mario, start your engine" several seconds before the rest of the 29-car field roared to life.

Andretti led a pace lap before falling back into his 12th-place starting spot as a huge Laguna Seca raceway crowd roared and waved handkerchiefs and hats.

The day quickly turned from one of nostalgia for the Andrettis to the brutal realities of racing. On the third turn, Michael Andretti, Mario's eldest son, was sidelined and the father's car was damaged in a multi-car melee.

The incident began when Robby Gordon, who started fifth, tried to pass Unser, who started fourth. The two bumped front tires, sending Unser's car sliding off track and through the dirt.

Cars packed up behind them moments after the start began braking and taking evasive action, and a series of events caused considerable damage.

Dominick Dobson ran into the rear of Mario's car and Michael, going off into the dirt, spun. The younger

Andretti's car was sitting backward on the track when he was hit by Bobby Rahal. The accident put Michael and Rahal, both former series champions, out of the race and left debris scattered over the track, bringing out the first of four full-course cautions.

The incident sent Mario all the way back to 24th and Unser to 21st. But they both came back strong. Unser was second when his car broke, while Andretti was seventh when he went out.

The three victories by Tracy, added together with eight wins by Unser and one for Fittipaldi gave Roger Penske's elite team a record 12 wins for the season.

Tracy is waiting to hear if Penske will pick up the option year of his contract, take Andretti's place on the Newman-Haas Indy-car team for possible make the move to Formula One.

"It was a great day for the Penske team," he said. "It could be my last race for them, but we don't know yet. If it was, it was a good way to leave. The car was perfect. The tires lasted. It was great."

Martin retains squash title

ST PETER PORT, England (R) — Michelle Martin became the first Australian since the great Heather McKay in 1979 to successfully defend the women's World Open squash title Sunday.

She beat England's Cassie Jackman 9-1, 8-0, 9-6 in 33 minutes in a final which turned out to be the one of the most one-sided since the first World Open in 1976 when McKay herself yielded only four points.

Martin, 27, virtually remodelled herself after losing the 1992 final to New Zealand's Susan Devoy and now rules the women's game almost as firmly as Devoy used to.

Her control of the pace and spread of the game allied with cool determination left ex-world junior champion Jackman grappling to get into the contest until late in the match.

Real Madrid throw off Laudrup syndrome

Euro Soccer

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid, entertaining 3-1 weekend winners over Racing Santander, took special satisfaction from an emphatic Spanish League victory achieved without Danish midfielder Michael Laudrup, called to international duty in Copenhagen.

The Dane, newly signed from Barcelona, has quickly become the inspiration of Argentine coach Jorge Valdano's new-look side, and his absence had sown unease in the squad.

"We showed we are not dependent on any star figures. I was worried about the Laudrup syndrome but we overcame it and that is a very healthy sign," Valdano said.

Highlight of the match was a piece of vintage one-two magic between veteran striker Emilio Butragueno and midfielder Michel Gonzalez which ended with Butragueno netting the third goal.

"Whenever I get on the pitch, I try to do things well. I always feel the same enthusiasm," said Butragueno, who came on in the second half when Ivan Zamorano was injured. Butragueno has been restricted to substitute appearances this season.

Real Madrid are now within a point of leaders Deportivo Coruna who are thanking the opportunity of substitute striker Claudio Barragan for their 3-3 draw at home to Real Zaragoza after being 3-1 down with 12 minutes left.

Claudio scored with a subtle backheader in the 78th minute and whipped home the equaliser from an acute angle five minutes from time after the Zaragoza goalkeeper could only parry a Bebeto header.

Coach Arsenio Iglesias had



Olympique de Marseille midfielder Jean-Philippe Durand (right) avoids Toulouse defender Erwan Manach Sunday during the Marseille-Toulouse match in the French southern city of Marseille. Marseille won 1-0 and qualified for the second division French football championship (AFP photo)

mixed emotions: "The entry of Claudio was what the play demanded, but we should have achieved the same with the starting line-up. Substitution is a patching up operation which this time worked."

In Germany, Werder Bremen kept up the pressure on Borussia Dortmund with a 2-1 victory over struggling 1860 Munich.

Bremen and Dortmund, who beat Schalke 3-2 Saturday, are level on 13 points at the top, one point ahead of third-placed Hamburg who beat Bochum 3-1.

French and Italian leagues took a break with international sides in European championship action. Italy beat Estonia 2-0 while France drew 0-0 with Romania.

French trainer Aime Jacquet was happy with the performance of his experimental team and said he would re-

tain the four young Nantes players — strikers Nicolas Ouedec and Patrice Loko, midfielder Christian Karembeu and winger Reynald Pedros — for next month's visit to Poland.

Jacquet went as far as comparing Pedros with George Best and hinted he might continue to leave out more experienced attackers Jean-Pierre Papin and David Ginola.

"Loko and Ouedec were magnificent," he said. "I have confidence in them and I want to assure them they will be with the French team in Poland."

Jacquet said Papin and Ginola would have to show him by their performances with Bayern Munich and Paris St. Germain that they deserved to be recalled and that they were still committed to the national team.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Dallas regroups to beat Detroit

The Associated Press

THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ers needed to regroup as badly as the Detroit Lions did.

Early on, it looked like the Lions, who had lost two straight since beating Dallas, were doing it better. Detroit scored on its first two possessions Sunday before San Francisco came back to win 27-21 at Pontiac, Mich.

A slow start was the last thing the 49ers, coming off a 40-8 embarrassment by Philadelphia, wanted. But they capitalised on a crop of Detroit penalties to score two quick touchdowns and tie the score at halftime.

"Nothing is easy for us right now, but we're hanging in there," 49ers quarterback Steve Young said. "It's not easy being down 14-0 on the road, but we've got some guys on the team who have been around a long time. We knew that we didn't need to scream and panic. We just had to get going."

In other games Sunday, Philadelphia beat Washington 21-17, Dallas routed Arizona 38-3, the Los Angeles Raiders edged New England

21-17, Chicago beat New Orleans 17-7, Green Bay took the Los Angeles Rams 24-17, Buffalo defeated Miami 21-11, the New York Jets downed Indianapolis 16-6 and Atlanta beat Tampa Bay 34-13.

Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston and Pittsburgh had byes.

The Lions were penalised 12 times for 101 yards. Five of the penalties were against their special teams.

"We got a lot of our penalties on the kicking game, and that's something I have to look into," Lions coach Wayne Fontes said.

Young hit 19 of 25 passes for 152 yards, including a 5-yard pass to Nate Singleton.

Floyd carried eight times for 35 yards and caught five passes for 43 yards.

"Taking away the deep ball is their game," Young said. "We had the short stuff and they gave us runs up the middle, which William took advantage of."

Chargers 20, Chiefs 6

At San Diego, Natrone

Means ran for a career-high 125 yards and one touchdown on 19 carries as the Charges (5-0) remained the NFL's only undefeated team.

The Chiefs (3-2) have lost two straight games for the first time since Montana moved over last season from San Francisco.

Eagles, 21, Redskins 17

At Philadelphia, Rookie Charlie Garner had his second 100-yard game in two weeks, rushing for 122 yards on 28 carries as the Eagles (4-1) won their fourth in a row.

The Redskins (1-5) drove to Eagles' 33 late in the game, but Heath Shuler's third-and-10 pass was intercepted by Greg Jackson at the 3 with 47 seconds remaining.

Cowboys 38, Cardinals 3

At Irving, Texas, Emmitt Smith scored twice and Troy Aikman threw two touchdowns passes as the Cowboys (4-1) snapped a seven-game losing streak to Buddy Ryan.

The Cowboys rocked the Cardinals (Ar) with four touchdowns in the first half, three of them following interceptions of Jay Schroeder by the NFL's best defence.

Raiders 21, Patriot 17

At Foxboro, Mass., cor-

nerback Terry McDaniel returned an interception for a touchdown, and his second of three pickoffs set up the deciding score as Los Angeles (2-3) stopped New England's three-game winning streak.

Bledsoe, who entered the game as the league's passing leader, threw for 321 yards, but his three interceptions were costly for New England (3-3).

Jets 16, Colts 6

At East Rutherford, N.J., New York (3-3) snapped a five-year home losing streak against Indianapolis (2-4) in a game marked by fumbles, penalties and interceptions.

Backup running back Adrian Murrell keyed the decisive scoring drive late in the final quarter with a 19-yard run, and Boomer Esiason hit Johnny Mitchell with a 1-yard TD pass for the Jets' first touchdown for the Colts in three years.

Nick Lowery kicked three field goals.

Falcons 34, Buccaneers 13

At Atlanta, Ironhead Heyward scored two touchdowns in his first start of the season, and Vinnie Clark returned interceptions 74 and 21 yards in the Falcons' third straight win.

Jeff George threw two touchdowns passes. Heyward rushed for 87 yards and a pair of short touchdowns as Atlanta (4-2) took a 24-0 lead late in the first half.

Bills 21, Dolphins 11

At Orchard Park, N.Y.,

Fashanu accused of reckless play

LONDON (AFP) — English soccer star John Fashanu's recklessness had ruined the career of former Northern Ireland international John O'Neill, it was alleged in the High Court here Monday.

O'Neill is suing the Aston Villa player and his former club Wimbledon for compensation for right knee ligament and nerve damage seven years ago which wrecked his playing career and potential as a professional coach.

His counsel, Nigel Baker QC, said O'Neill had only just been transferred from QPR to Norwich and was making his debut for his new club when Fashanu's "violent physical challenge" in the 34th minute put him out of soccer permanently.

"Mr. O'Neill will tell the court that he saw Fashanu approaching out of the corner of his eye and feared the worst," said Mr. Baker.

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Head of Special Tenders Committee

The British Council

October programme

October 11, Tuesday 7.30pm	No Strings Attached (Concert for the British clarinet quartet)
October 12, Wednesday 7pm	Heat and Dust (video)
October 13, Thursday 4pm	No Strings Attached (Free concert for the British clarinet quartet at Haya Arts Centre)
October 19, Wednesday 7pm	Young & Innocent (video)
October 26, Wednesday 7pm	The Killing Fields (video)

All events will be held at the British Council except for the performance on October 13th 1994.

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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
Yusra, Safiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah in Al Muhajer (Immigrant)	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Lou Diamond Phillips and Scott Glenn — in Extreme Justice	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:15, 5:15	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:15, 5:15	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social com- edy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

Cedras quits to head for Panama

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The army general who ruled Haiti with an iron fist for three years, Raoul Cedras, stepped down Monday as shouts by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's supporters nearly drowned out the resignation speech.

Lieutenant-General Cedras, 45, relinquished power in an emotional and noisy official ceremony at the armed forces headquarters where he spent most of his time since giving in to American military pressure on Sept. 18. The army chief is expected to leave Haiti within days.

Gunshots rang out after Gen. Cedras resigned causing panic in the crowd but it was unclear if there were any injuries.

"In a few minutes I will officially hand over my responsibility for the military institution, the symbol of our army, to my successor," Gen. Cedras said, his voice almost drowned out by chants from the hostile crowd.

"You should place yourself to help the U.S. military to create a new country, a new nation," Gen. Cedras said. "I will not be with you. I have decided to leave the country so that my presence will not be a motive to create terror."

In an ironic twist, U.S. troops with tanks and helicopters provided the security around the ornate army base in the city centre holding back hundreds of demonstrators who chanted anti-Cedras slogans.

As soon as the ceremony was over, the crowd surged into the adjacent streets to celebrate chanting "Cedras is out. Cedras is out." Many held aloft tree branches in a traditional symbol of peace.

Two bursts of automatic weapons fire rang out from a convoy escorting Gen. Cedras from military headquarters through the angry crowd.

It was not clear whether American or Haitian troops following the convoy fired the shots. Hundreds of Haitians immediately dropped to the pavement but there were no apparent injuries.

The crowd had surged around a convoy carrying Gen. Cedras and his wife after his resignation speech at the presidential palace. Before it sped out of sight, the

angry crowd chased Gen. Cedras and his party away, pounding on his vehicle doors and windows.

Senior Haitian officers in khaki uniforms watched from the second-floor balcony of the yellow-trimmed white building. The Haitian officers were accompanied by U.S. military officers. "Hoodlums, hoodlums" the crowd cried as Gen. Cedras arrived in a motorcade for the ceremony.

The chants of the crowd drowned out his speech.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schraeger said Monday that among the countries that could take in Gen. Cedras would be Panama, Spain, Argentina or Venezuela.

He also said he could not rule out the possibility of the United States as a future home for Gen. Cedras. The spokesman said the United States did not have any indication of when or even whether Gen. Biamby would leave Haiti.

Gen. Cedras handed the post of armed forces chief to his number two, Lieutenant-General Jean-Claude Duperval, but he will only be an interim.

The United States welcomed Gen. Cedras' resignation saying it was "the end of a sad chapter" in Haitian history.

Civilian sources close to Gen. Cedras told AFP that he would go into exile in Panama in the next three days and that his right-hand man, Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby, who has also resigned, would flee to Venezuela.

Their departure clears the way for the return of Mr. Aristide, who was overthrown by Gen. Cedras and the military in a bloody Sept. 30, 1991 coup. Mr. Aristide is to return to Haiti Saturday and will name his own army chief.

Military sources here said that Mr. Aristide would likely name Mondesir Beaubrun, a 44-year-old colonel met with the exiled president Saturday in Washington.

Mr. Aristide asked Col. Beaubrun to head a commission that would review the disgraced Haitian military and recommend changes both in personnel and size.

G-protein doctors share Nobel prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two Americans, Alfred G. Gilman and Martin Rodbell, won the Nobel prize for Medicine Monday for a "paramount" discovery of how cells talk to each other.

Their work in the 1960s and 1970s paved the way for understanding such diverse afflictions as diabetes, diarrhoea, alcoholism and cholera, which affect millions of people around the globe.

The scientists were the first to identify elements called G-proteins and the role they play in "signal transduction in cells," said a statement from the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

"It is like a key component in a telephone switchboard," said Dr. Bertil Fredholm, a professor of pharmacology at the Karolinska Institute, said during a news conference. "Considered a milestone in understanding a number of diseases, the discovery had been 'a complete surprise and it solved a number of problems,'" Dr. Fredholm said.

Although their research has not netted any treatments yet for the diseases, the institute predicted ultimately it will.

Reached at his home in the United States, Dr. Gilman said he was "awestruck. I'm more excited than I've ever been."

Dr. Gilman and Mr. Rodbell found that disturbances in the G-proteins' functions — too many or too few of them — can confuse cells and lead to disease.

That discovery led scientists to trace G-protein problems in many diseases. In cholera, for example, scientists have found that the bacteria alters the G-protein, turning it into something akin to a "green light" in a cell allowing constant dehydration.

"This prevents salt and water from being normally absorbed from the intestines. The resulting loss of water and salt can lead to dehydration and death," the statement said.

In diabetes and alcoholism, the discovery has allowed scientists to pinpoint "altered signalling" between G-proteins in cells, the statement said.

Mutated and overactive G-proteins also have been found in some tumors and skeletal deformations, the statement said.

"Due to the discoveries of Gilman and Rodbell, and their work, several laboratories turned to (research in this) area. Therefore we now know a great deal about the functions of G-proteins and how they control the activities of the cell," the statement said.

Dr. Gilman, 53, works in the department of pharmacology at the University of Texas, in Dallas.

Dr. Rodbell, 68, works at the national Institute of environmental Health Sciences, in North Carolina, the statement said.

At the time of the discoveries, Dr. Rodbell and his team were working at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda. Dr. Gilman was working at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

They will share the Nobel Prize in Medicine, which is worth some million kronor, or about \$930,000, this year. The award is to be handed over in a ceremony on Dec. 10 in Stockholm.

The statement said that Mr. Rodbell launched research into G-proteins with a set of pioneering experiments. Dr. Gilman picked up the research later and carried it further, it said.

Together, the scientists made a discovery of "paramount importance" in helping understand the way cells communicate.

The name G-protein was chosen because it "binds" guanosine triphosphate, the statement said.

The prize — formally honouring research in medicine and physiology — is given by the Karolinska Institute to scientists whom it feels have most benefited humankind.

Most of the medicine prize winners — now 71 out of 157 — have been American.

King reviews restoration of shrines

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Monday members of the Royal Commission for the restoration of mosques and the tombs and shrines of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad.

The committee reported to the King on progress in the restoration, which covers a large number of mosques in the Kingdom.

According to the committee members, restoration has been going on at the shrines of Jaafar Ben Abi Taleb, Zeid Ben Haritah and Abdullah Ben Rawaha.

The committee also briefed the King on plans to restore the ancient mosque of Irbid where work is due to start next month.

King Hussein had made a personal contribution of JD 50,000 for the restoration work at the shrines. The Ministry of Awqaf and



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday looks at photographs and designs related to restoration of tombs of the companions of the Prophet and shrines in Jordan (Petra photo)

Islamic Affairs had announced that the restoration would cost more than JD 2.5 million.

King meets Kansas governor
King Hussein also received at the Royal Court

Monday Mrs. Joan Finney, governor of the American state of Kansas, and reviewed with her U.S.

Jordanian relations with special focus on trade and the exchange of expertise. Discussion also focused on the prospect of establishing Jordan as a regional centre for the sale of wheat imported from Kansas.

Adel Qudrah, minister of supply, and Wesley Egan, the U.S. ambassador, were present at the meeting.

Defence college team

King Hussein also met with a delegation representing teachers and students of the Royal British Defence College and reviewed with them the Middle East peace process and Jordan's position.

The team, which earlier met with senior officers of the Jordanian Armed Forces, discussed the role of Jordanian troops in peacekeeping operations around the world.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai attended the meeting.

Israel and PLO start election talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Talks between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel about Palestinian elections resumed on Monday after a delay of several hours resulting from a bloody attack in Jerusalem.

"We're starting this round with a heavy, sad and angry feeling for what happened yesterday, but the fact we are here shows that we are committed to continue the negotiations... to show that those willing to stop the negotiations by terror will not succeed," Israeli chief negotiator Danny Rothchild said.

Sources close to the talks said the Israelis wanted the Palestinian delegation to condemn the attack in a nightclub and cafe area of West Jerusalem. But the Palestinians refrained from making any statement, saying it was up to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to do so.

They resumed talks on Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza after PLO leader Yasser Arafat's close aide, Nabil Shaath, officially condemned the attack. General Rothchild told the Palestinians the attack showed it was not "enough to sit in an air-conditioned room and preach high for democracy and elections."

"There is a real need to take measures against terror, otherwise there will be no democracy anywhere," Gen. Rothchild said.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, staunch opponent of the PLO's peace

deal with Israel, claimed responsibility for Sunday's bloody assault in which two people were killed and 14 were wounded in bars and cafes. (see separate story)

Palestinian delegation leader Saeb Erakat, who is also Local Government Minister in the Palestinian authority, said that he could not react to the Jerusalem attack before knowing all the facts.

Three days of Israeli-PLO talks last week failed to agree the modalities or set a timetable for elections to an autonomous council, which will run civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Palestinian negotiators accused the Israeli team of being undemocratic for refusing to allow those opposed to self-rule to participate in the poll, and said Israel allowed extreme Jewish organisations to participate in their elections.

The elections have already been delayed from July and no new date has been set, although the Palestinians want to hold them in early November.

Talks also stumbled last week on Israel's refusal to allow residents from East Jerusalem to stand as candidates.

Mr. Erakat said that in this round of talks, due to end on Wednesday, the Palestinians were awaiting Israel's response on substantive issues such as the legislative and executive structure of the council.

Christopher: Hard work on Israel-Syria track

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher launched new talks Monday to iron out difference between Israel and Syria over a withdrawal timetable and security arrangements on the Golan, officials said.

The two questions as well as a border and a test period to allow for normalisation dominated the discussions the secretary held with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, senior officials said.

"Rabin and Christopher reviewed each of the four points raised by the prime minister in parliament a week ago," one senior official said.

Mr. Christopher admitted to reporters that a lot of effort would be required before Israel and Syria make peace.

"Much hard work remains particularly on the track between Israel and Syria," he said.

He praised the first interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaf to Israel Television last week as "a good first step."

But he added that the substance of the interview, "also indicates the gaps that exist, the distance we have to travel."

"We have to facilitate a peaceful comprehensive settlement in the earliest possible time," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Peres noted that for

Jordan, PNA continue talks amid indications of progress

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian officials on Monday continued discussions on cooperation in various spheres amid indications that progress might have already been reached towards agreements on some issues.

The two delegations, meeting at the Foreign Ministry, said they were on the way towards resolving differences over economic and political issues.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, head of the Jordanian delegation, and his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Abed Rabbo both said the discussions were at a serious stage and that differences on viewpoints could be overcome.

The two sides met Monday morning for a three-hour session and resumed the meeting in the evening. The talks were expected to conclude on Tuesday.

During a session Sunday evening, the two sides reached agreement to review a working paper stating their respective positions on the issue of displaced people — those who had to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 war.

However, other differences remained, officials from both sides said.

Mr. Rawabdeh, Jordan's education minister, said after the Monday morning session that the "differences can be resolved" and that the talks had focused on cooperation in monetary and banking affairs as well as trade between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, minister of information and culture in the PNA, said: "We are seeking practical agreements on certain points that will improve and generate practical economic cooperation between the two sides."

That appeared to be a reference to differences over the modalities of an economic agreement Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in January. The accord was modified in May after the PLO signed an accord on economic cooperation with Israel.

But Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the PNA, has not ratified the modified accord with Jordan since, according to PLO officials, he finds the document as giving a stronger say to Jordan in the monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza than the PLO is willing to accept.

PNA Civic Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi said the Palestinian authority was determined to set up a national monetary authority in the self-rule areas.

"We must arrive with our Jordanian brothers at a complementary cooperation rather than confrontation with regards to banking and currency," Mr. Tarifi was quoted as saying by AFP.

The Palestinian authority would not ask Jordan yet to give up its religious role in Jerusalem, Mr. Tarifi said.

"Both sides have no intentions right now to create differences over the Awqaf," he said.

On Sunday, the first day of the resumed talks with the PNA, Mr. Rawabdeh said: "We are trying to get our viewpoints closer to reach common convictions on a number of issues which affect our relationship. These include political, economic, trade and legal documents."

On Monday, Mr. Rawabdeh reiterated Jordan's stand that political sovereignty over Jerusalem was the right of the Palestinians and the Kingdom's role in the Holy City was religious-oriented.

"Jordan is not the guardian of Jerusalem," he said. "Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinians and it is the Palestinians' right to have sovereignty" over the Holy City.

Mr. Rawabdeh and Mr. Abed Rabbo said the issue of

the Islamic holy shrines and Awqaf in the occupied territories was not discussed so far during the latest round of meetings.

It was not clear whether the two sides had settled differences over the export of Jordanian products worth \$30 million this year to those parts of the West Bank which have not yet come under self-rule. Jordan and Israel have reached agreement on the exports, but the PLO criticised the accord saying it circumvented the authority of the PNA.

Omar Khatib, acting chief of the Palestinian mission here, has said that the PNA delegation, which includes at least six ministers in the self-rule authority, was empowered to sign agreements with Jordan.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the team intended to conclude agreements, including economic accords, in addition to discussing means of developing political coordination.

"Through combined efforts and shared vision, we will be able to reach our common goals to ensure our rights and achieve a just and comprehensive peace which will protect our peoples' interest," he said Sunday.

The Jordanian team to the talks included Minister of Information and Minister of State Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Transport Samir Kassar, Interior Minister Salameh Hammad, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, Minister of Youth and Acting Foreign Minister Fawaz Abdul Ghanam, Minister of Culture Juma Hammad, Minister of Communications Hashem Dabbas, and Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal.

The PNA team included Economy Minister Ahmad Qouria, Minister of Awqaf Hassan Tahboub, Minister of Civil Affairs Jamil Al Tarifi, Minister of Transport Abdul Aziz Al Haj, Minister of Justice Freij Abu Meidan and Mr. Khatib, the head of the Palestinian mission.

Rabbani offers to resign

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has made a conditional offer to step down for the sake of a peace settlement in his embattled country, Afghan sources said here Monday.

Mr. Rabbani made the offer in a message to a U.N.-sponsored meeting of independent Afghan leaders, who are currently in session in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, they said.

The conditions spelled out in Mr. Rabbani's message are that his resignation should in no way give any political or other advantage to his opponents.

The Quetta assembly of non-aligned Afghan personalities came at the initiative of U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, a former Tunisian foreign minister.

19th Frenchman killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A 62-year-old French technician was gunned down Monday as he drove to work through an Algiers suburb.

Roger Merle, who worked for Sefap, an Algerian company specialising in the installation of satellite television dishes, was killed near Oued Smar at about 8:30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

Nineteen French people have been slain in Algeria in the past year in attacks claimed by or blamed on Islamic extremists who accuse France of collaborating with the "impious" secular regime.

The sources said those who killed Merle fled after the attack.

"France expresses deep shock after this latest assassination," foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said in Paris, calling on all French nationals to quit the country unless they had to stay.

A 59-year-old French consultant engineer, Jean-Pierre Maniere, was found with his throat cut on Saturday after going missing the previous Sunday. French authorities had kept his abduction secret in the hope he would be recovered alive.

Mr. Duque on Monday reiterated government calls for French nationals to leave.

"Given the security risks, the government is making a pressing appeal for every French person whose presence is not indispensable to take immediate steps to return to France," he said.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for killing Merle or Maniere, but the latter's body was found at Hammadi, near Reghaia, some 30 kilometres south of here in the "triangle of fear," where the most radical faction, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), has its stronghold.

Old Iranian woman challenges youth to marathon

NICOSIA (AP) — A 121-year-old Iranian woman with a perfect health record thinks she can outrun the kids of her neighbourhood.

Golnasa Shakeri challenged youngsters in the Banzanjan district of Baft, 800 kilometres (500 miles) southeast of Tehran, to a marathon, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia.

The woman told IRNA she'd be competing against runners a more than a century younger, she thinks she just might win, IRNA said.

Mrs. Golnasa, who has two children and nine grandchildren, told the agency she likes rich foods, canned fruits and non-alcoholic beverages.

Italian puffs his way to world pipe-smoking title

COPENHAGEN (R) — Italian Claudio Caviechi won the men's title at the eighth world pipe-smoking championships, puffing away for an uninterrupted two hours, 52 minutes and 35 seconds, an organiser said Monday.

The women's title was won by Dane Sussi Jensen with a time of one hour, 54 minutes and 40 seconds at the weekend event, which attracted 457 pipe-smokers from some 15 nations.

Naked motorist forced to hitch-hike in binbag

METZ, France (AFP) — Highway robbers forced a motorist to strip naked after ambushing him on a French motorway, and then took off with all his belongings, police said Sunday.

The motorist eventually managed to hitch-hike to a police station covering his modesty with a borrowed bin-bag after the incident Friday night. The victim, from Luxembourg, spoke no French.

Indonesia to crack down on laser discs

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, trying to enforce a recent ban on the film True Lies, has ordered officials to seize all laser discs, which it says are illegal under local law, the official Antara News Agency said Monday.

It quoted Alex Leo Zulkarnain, director of radio, television and film, as saying that officials would seize all laser discs after reports that the film, banned on Oct. 1 after protests by Muslim groups, was circulating on laser disc.

"Under the Information Ministry regulation, such goods are not allowed to enter Indonesia. Foreign films which are recorded on laser discs are illegal so we must seize laser discs," he said.

Indonesia, which censors out all overt sexual content from foreign films and media entering the country, has barred all laser discs until it develops a method to regulate their use. The ban is rarely implemented and laser discs can readily be bought or hired.

1st Beatles record ever broadcast up for sale

LONDON (R) — The first Beatles record ever broadcast is to be put up for auction next month and is expected to fetch about £10,000 (\$16,000), Bonhams, a London-based firm of auctioneers, said.

The Radio Luxembourg Library copy of Love Me Do, the record that launched beatlemania, was pressed for promotional purposes in 1962. It has autographed by former Beatle Paul McCartney. Another rarity in the sale of pop memorabilia on Nov. 26 is the first uncensored interview ever carried out with the British pop group, the Sex Pistols. It was recorded at disc jockey Tony Prince's apartment in Luxembourg in 1976 and could fetch up to £8,000 (almost \$13,000).

Prince spent three hours editing out all of Johnny Rotten's swear words. "The result was a broadcast with 208 bleeps which sounded more like a Morse code message than an interview," a Bonhams spokesman said.